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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

BUSINESS



Full-size pickups once again dominated U.S. auto sales in May.

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ASIA



A swift-moving fire trapped panicked workers inside a poultry slaughterhouse in northeastern China.

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LIFE & STYLE



Discovery Channel says it will honor three veteran storm chasers who died in Oklahoma.

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Buckingham flies back to Colorado

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

» Govendo grants bail modification so he can seek medical treatment

Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham left Saipan yesterday afternoon or a few hours after Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo issued an order that granted his request to leave the Commonwealth and return to the State of Colorado so he can receive medical treatment.



Buckingham

10:47am, Govendo said he has been persuaded that Buckingham will suffer undue hardship if he is not allowed to leave

The 64-year-old Buckingham was accompanied by his counsel, Brien Sers Nicholas, at the Francisco C. Palacios-Saipan International Airport.

In his order filed in court at

the Commonwealth.

In amending Buckingham's bail conditions, the judge imposed many conditions, including a waiver of extradition.

Buckingham submitted this morning in court a waiver of extradition as a condition of his bail bond.

Govendo said he is satisfied that the \$50,000 cash bail that Buckingham posted is sufficient to secure his presence on the date of trial.

Buckingham's trial will be on Feb. 3, 2014.

Among the conditions that Govendo imposed for Buckingham's release is that the former AG may not travel outside of the United States, Guam, or the CNMI; he shall surrender his passport to

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Small steps for big gains in NMI tourism

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider gave Rotary Club of Saipan members and guests yesterday a rundown of ongoing tourism efforts and plans, some of them may be small steps but could bring in big gains for the

visitor industry.

» Acting governor touts tourism efforts, plans

They include upgrading traffic lights, placing surveillance cameras in Marpi's famous spots for safety and security, privatizing park maintenance and developing a permanent site for a farmers and fishermen's market in Garapan.

Hofschneider, the guest speaker at yesterday

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider updates members and guests of the Rotary Club of Saipan about ongoing efforts and plans to revitalize the tourism industry, while Rotary Club president Pete Shilling looks on at the club's weekly meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

Expedition may have found Earhart's plane off South Pacific island

Air-crash investigators may have found the wreckage of the plane piloted by U.S. aviator Amelia Earhart in her failed attempt to fly around the globe.

Expedition leaders from The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGAR) said they had spotted an object that looked like the fuselage of a Lockheed Electra off an island in the South Pacific.

Earhart and her navigator van-

ished on July 2, 1937, after they took off from Papua New Guinea in a twin-engine Electra headed for Howland Island. They were more than halfway through an unprecedented bid to circle the globe along the equator.

Last July the group chartered a ship from the University of Hawaii to scour the seabed around an uninhabited atoll called Nikumaroro, where Earhart and her navigator may have crash-landed

after losing their way. They used robotic underwater vehicles to map the seabed but found no sign of the plane.

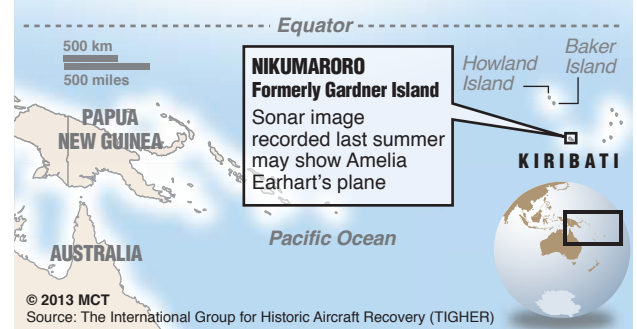
That changed in March, when a member of the public noticed an object in a sonar picture that the expedition had made public.

It was no more than a golden streak on a grainy image taken in 180 metres of water, but the seven-metre-long object matched

See **EXPEDITION** on **Page 4**

Earhart's plane?

A team looking for remains of the airplane in which famed aviator Amelia Earhart disappeared in 1937 says it may have found the wreck in a small Pacific atoll.



Local

Key US senator hits Interior for planned closure of ombudsman's office

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The chairman of a powerful U.S. Senate committee that has oversight over insular areas protested the U.S. Department of the Interior's planned closure of the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office in the CNMI at the end of fiscal year 2013, adding that such "troubling" and "disappointing" decision was made without consulting congressional committees and guest workers who depend upon the office for "advocacy and services."

Sen. Ron Wyden, chairman of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natu-

ral Resources Committee, wrote a pointed letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on May 31.

He said the "critical work" that the ombudsman's office currently performs "must not be abandoned."

The ombudsman's office was established in 1999 in response to a long-standing pattern of mistreatment of alien "guest" workers and the ineffective response to their situation by local and federal agencies, the chairman said.

Wyden gave the Interior sec-

retary 30 days from May 31 to answer 13 questions and provide a detailed plan to ensure that the agency has a continuing capability to carry out the ombudsman's office's essential functions.

For example, the senator asked Jewell how the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs plans to spend the \$250,000 that President Barack Obama allocated for the operation of the Ombudsman's Office in 2014.

Wyden asked about OIA's plan to fill the vacant CNMI

field representative position left by Jeff Schorr in August 2012, and whether there is a plan to have that person absorb duties to assist aliens who are victims of immigration, labor, law enforcement and trafficking-in persons violations.

At the beginning of his letter, Wyden expressed "deep disappointment" with the Interior's decision, adding that it was made "without a plan in place to ensure that the important work of the office is continued."

Wyden said the Interior made the decision apparently weeks after Obama's budget indicated that the office would continue to

operate at current levels through FY 2014.

"It is particularly troubling that this decision to close the office was made without any apparent consultation with Congressional Committees, other affected federal agencies, the government of the CNMI, or the workers who depend upon the Ombudsman Office for advocacy and services. In fact, it appears that the decision to close the Office was triggered by the failure of Department officials to properly plan for the entirely predictable expiration of the term appointment of the Ombudsman," Wyden said in a two-page letter.

Bonifacio Sagana, president of the worker group Dekada, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the ombudsman's office's closure would be a big blow to guest workers, including those who have yet to collect on awarded wage and labor claims for years and decades.

Sagana, who has yet to collect almost \$8,000 in awarded labor claims, added that guest workers who have been victims of mistreatment, abuse and other illegal activities will no longer have direct access to services that the ombudsman's office has been providing for years.

An online petition to keep the ombudsman's office open is being complemented by letters addressed to the Interior and U.S. Congress, asking for the continued operations of the office.

'Unpersuasive'

Wyden said the assertion of Interior's OIA officials during a May 2 meeting with his staff was "unpersuasive."

That OIA assertion was that the operations of the ombudsman's office would be devolved onto the office of the CNMI field representative and other local and federal agencies, he said.

"As yet OIA has not done any analysis of the Ombudsman's operations to determine which functions are still critical, and OIA has not consulted or developed plans or agreements with the other offices and agencies it is assuming will carry on the Ombudsman's functions," Wyden told Jewell.

He added that any plan to transfer functions and responsibilities to other offices or agencies should include provisions for funding those operations.

"However, as I mentioned, the budget recently submitted to Congress does not include any hint of such funding, instead asking for continued funding for the Office of the U.S. Labor Ombudsman," Wyden said.

Wendy Doromal, a Florida-based human rights activist and former CNMI teacher, said if the decision to close the ombudsman's office was actually made because OIA failed

to plan for the expiration of the Ombudsman's term appointment, "that suggests that perhaps OIA, not the Ombudsman Office, is the office in need of serious changes."

Doromal said in previous years, it was OIA that led the charge to stop the exploitation and abuse of the foreign workers in the CNMI.

"It was the Department of the Interior and the Office of Insular Affairs that stood up to the Fitial-DeLay-Jack Abramoff co-conspirators at congressional hearings to tell the truth about the plight of the CNMI's foreign workers and demand reform. Who would have thought that this Department and this Office would make a move that would contribute to the denial of justice for the suffering foreign workers?" she asked.

OIA's confirmation of the ombudsman's office closure at the end of FY 2013—which is Sept. 30 this year—came as a surprise to guest workers and advocates. They were not alone.

Former Federal Labor Ombudsman James J. Benedetto, for example, asked Jewell and key U.S. Congress members to keep the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office in the CNMI open for another five years—"or at least until several important issues are resolved" concerning alien workers in the CNMI.

Benedetto, the federal labor ombudsman from 2002 until 2008, said since the federal government assumed control of CNMI immigration, roughly the same number of labor complaints has been received by the ombudsman's office as from 1999 to 2008.

He said the office received nearly four times as many immigration-related complaints after federalization as it did in the previous nine years.

Moreover, nearly three times as many human trafficking victims sought help from the office under federal control than those who had come during the pre-federalization period, he said.

This is contrary to OIA's statement that the ombudsman's office closure is a result of a "dramatic shift" in the office's work—"from working on serious labor and trafficking violations to assisting individual alien workers with more routine immigration and labor issues."

For 14 years, the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office has helped refer to proper CNMI and federal agencies thousands of foreign workers who were victims of labor abuses, human trafficking, sex trafficking, illegal recruitment, wage theft, and contract violations, among other things.

The office also helped victims of criminal acts such as rape, assault and battery, false imprisonment, and torture.



Wyden



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Competing interests in Pagan pose challenge to DPL

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Department of Public Lands secretary-nominee Pete A. Tenorio told senators yesterday that “imminent and competing interests” in Pagan pose challenges to the agency tasked to manage public lands and to the CNMI government as a whole. These include the U.S. military’s plan to build live-fire training ranges on Pagan and the CNMI’s plans on pozzolan mining, future homesteading, geothermal and hydrothermal resources and eco-tourism.

Tenorio, at the same time, told reporters that DPL is looking into a Senate-adopted resolution urging DPL and the Office of the Governor to reinstate JG Sablan Rock Quarry Inc.’s pozzolan commercial mining permit on Pagan.

He said DPL has yet to talk to JG Sablan to determine whether the company still has investor partners on board, whether it has the resources to mine and transport pozzolan from Pagan to Saipan, and other needed resources.

Tenorio also said JG Sablan’s reported \$8 million unpaid obligation to DPL is a “separate matter” and he does not want to mix the two issues together.

Moreover, Tenorio said DPL still has to determine whether there is still a strong demand for



Department of Public Lands secretary nominee Pete A. Tenorio, left, chats with Sens. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) and Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) after the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations held a public hearing on his nomination. The Senate is expected to confirm Tenorio.

pozzolan just like before.

Pozzolan, volcanic ash spewed on Pagan, is used as an additive to make cement.

Senators earlier said that by allowing JG Sablan to mine pozzolan on Pagan, the government could generate millions of revenue that could prolong the NMI Retirement Fund’s lifespan beyond March 2014, fund public health, education and public safety programs, and help build infrastructure in the Northern Islands.

The Senate Committee on Ex-

ecutive Appointments and Government Investigations chaired by Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) held a public hearing yesterday afternoon on Tenorio’s nomination as DPL secretary.

All the nine individuals that testified before the committee urged the Senate to confirm Tenorio, whom they described as possessing the knowledge, experience, and education to lead DPL.

No one testified against the nomination, which is expected to be voted on in the next Sen-

ate session.

Tenorio told senators that DPL has started working closely with the Marianas Public Lands Trust on the constitutionally required transfer of funds from DPL to MPLT, an issue which he said created an atmosphere of mistrust in the past.

“DPL looks forward to rectifying this stalemate by remitting funds to MPLT in time and in a manner that fulfills our respective fiduciary obligations under our constitution and our laws,” he told senators.

He cited three challenges ahead of DPL and the government as a whole, including homesteading, pozzolan mining on Pagan and the U.S. military’s plan to use Pagan for live-fire training.

“So what do we do with future homesteading, the pozzolan resource, geothermal and hydrothermal resources for electricity generation in the future, and economic development of Pagan in the form of eco-tourism destinations, among other essential public purposes in the face of some imminent and

competing interests?” Tenorio told the senators.

He said these questions will continue to face CNMI lawmakers “and we all hope that some meaningful balance addressing all needs and concerns are reached.”

Ike DLG. Demapan from the Executive Branch presented Tenorio to the Senate EAGI panel.

Tenorio has a bachelor’s degree in geology and master’s degrees in geosciences specializing in hydrology and environmental health.

He was a member of the Marianas Political Status commission which negotiated the Covenant between the U.S. and NMI, served as the first executive director of the Marianas Public Land Corp. from 1977 to 1981, elected as a lieutenant governor for eight years, and was a CNMI resident representative to Washington, D.C.

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Kendall not guilty of making a terroristic threat

Brian Richard Kendall was acquitted as to the charge of making a terroristic threat, but was found guilty of possession of marijuana.

After deliberating for about an hour, the six Superior Court

jurors rendered a unanimous verdict, finding Kendall not guilty of one count of making a terroristic threat.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, who decided over the misdemeanor charge, found the

defendant guilty of one count of possession of controlled substance (marijuana).

Wiseman ordered Kendall to pay the maximum penalty of \$50 and \$10 court costs.

Assistant attorney general

James McAllister conducted the closing arguments for the government. Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll assisted McAllister in the trial.

Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg served as

counsel for Kendall.

The trial began on Monday.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Kendall for allegedly stating on Feb. 1, 2013 that then governor Benigno R. Fitial should not resign but die.

The defendant also allegedly threatened to hit Fitial with a metal pipe or bat.

When police arrested him the following day, they found marijuana in Kendall's possession. The defendant pleaded not guilty of both charges. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Inos in Seattle after Alaska trip

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After a trip to Alaska on official business, Gov. Eloy S. Inos is now in Seattle to visit his family, press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed yesterday.

Demapan said the governor is expected to return to the CNMI "toward the end of this week."

As of this time, however, there is no word yet as to the nature and specific topics discussed during a planned meeting between the governor

and Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. The governor had also planned on meeting with the governor and lieutenant governor of Alaska.

This was Inos' first trip to the U.S. mainland on official business since he became governor on Feb. 20. Prior to that, he went to Guam to meet with a

U.S. military official in the region to discuss the U.S. Department of Defense's plan to use Tinian and Pagan for live-fire training ranges.

Meanwhile, acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider declined to comment yesterday on the reason why the administration has yet to officially sub-

mit to the Senate the required documents in support of their nomination of attorney Ramon "Ray" Quichocho to serve as a Superior Court associate judge.

Hofschneider had said that he and Inos were not able to formally discuss Quichocho's nomination prior to Inos' trip to Alaska.

BUCKINGHAM

From Page 1

his counsel, Nicholas, as soon as he returns to Colorado, and that Nicholas shall promptly submit the passport to the clerk of court.

Buckingham is required to return to the CNMI no later than Jan. 26, 2014.

In signing the waiver of extradition, Buckingham said he waives his right to all formal extradition proceedings.

"I understand that any violation of my bond may result in my arrest in another state or territory. If I am arrested in another state or territory I can be returned to the CNMI through the extradition process," he said.

The former AG promised that he will not resist any effort by any state or territory to return him to the CNMI.

Police officers arrested Buckingham when he arrived on Saipan from Colorado and showed up at the Department of Public Safety's commissioner's office last week, Tuesday.

On Sept. 11, 2012, Wiseman declared Buckingham a fugitive from justice for leaving the CNMI despite criminal summons served on him.

OPA filed 12 criminal charges against Buckingham in connection with an alleged violation of election laws and illegal award of a sole-source contract, among others.



BILLS APLENTY

Members of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation led by chair Sen. Frank Borja (R-Tinian), left, review bills during their session yesterday morning. The delegation passed three local bills, including one that sets aside a total of \$29,000 to cover a portion of Tinian municipal employees' previous unpaid salaries and another one that charges tourists on Tinian a \$2 vehicular environmental impact fee.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Solomons PM slams truth and reconciliation report release

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—Solomon Islands Prime Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo says Bishop Terry Brown acted "unlawfully" when he decided to release the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report.

Expressing his disappointment from Bangkok where he is attending the 69th Session of the Economic Commission of the Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), Mr. Lilo said:

"I don't expect such an action to come from a person of Bishop Brown's caliber."

"The bishop has broken all the confidentiality accorded to him by responsible authorities including the Solomon Islands Government. Also, in this case he has no right to publish the report as it is the property of the Government," Mr. Lilo said.

Canadian Bishop Brown, the former bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Malaita, released the report on Sunday through the internet from his country, where he now resides.

He said he took the deci-

sion as editor of the report after much prayer and reflection.

[PIR editor's note: Solomon Attorney General Billy Titulu has also criticized the release, calling Brown's actions irresponsible. Titulu added that Brown may have broken the trust placed in the process by witnesses who willingly testified. Meanwhile, social media group Forum Solomon Islands International (FSII) has cautioned members of possible legal repercussions in the context of releasing the report through FSII. CEO Benjamin Afuga has warned members who may have received copies not to share the report on FSII until it has become available to the public.]

The report was given to Mr. Lilo in February last year. The Truth and Reconciliation Act requires that the prime minister, upon receiving the report, table it before parliament.

But the Act does not give a time-frame as to how soon the report can be tabled in parliament.

Prime Minister Lilo has de-

layed presenting the report to parliament, citing its sensitivity.

But Bishop Brown said the report is very accurate and comprehensive and gives proper recognition to the victims of the conflict whose stories should be heard.

"It is not good enough to forgive the perpetrators and forget the victims, which seems to be the approach of the Government. I feel strongly about this as I too lived through this period of Solomon Islands history and was a participant in the tragedy of those times. Scripture tells us: 'The truth shall make you free.'"

"I am convinced that the TRC report, as an exercise in truth telling, painful as the recollection may sometimes be, will help bring about the lasting justice, peace, reconciliation and unity that Solomon Islands so badly needs."

Mr. Lilo last night warned the Government will not be liable for damages or any consequential effects from the illegal release of the report.

Similarly, he said, the Government will "explore the legal consequences of the unlawful release of the report."

He said the Government will also bring the issue to the highest authorities of the Anglican Church on the actions of Bishop Brown.

Mr. Lilo said he had already made a commitment to be more strategic and responsible when informing the parliament on the TRC report in its next sitting.

"We have taken the initiatives to assess the risk impacts and the costs that associated with the recommendations of the report. That shows how the government wants to manage the release of the report and its impact to our citizens, especially the victims. And here we have a church leader undermining the initiatives of a legitimate Government," he said.

Mr. Lilo said he has already directed his officials to look at the options to be taken against the release of the report.

TOURISM

From Page 1

day's Rotary Club weekly meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan, also gave an update on the CNMI government's concerns on the U.S. Department of Defense's plans to build live-fire training ranges on Tinian and Pagan.

The acting governor said the Department of Public Lands and the Office of the Attorney General have started preliminary surveys of abandoned or dilapidated buildings in the tourist district of Garapan, to determine whether they could be torn down and redeveloped.

This, however, is not confined only to Garapan but also in other areas where there are abandoned garment factories.

EXPEDITION

From Page 1

parts of fuselage from other Electra accidents, Tighar executive director Ric Gillespie said.

He believes Earhart survived for some time as a castaway after the plane was swept into the

ocean by rising tides. "Our minds tend to make things be what we want them to be, we know that. Maybe it's a fishing boat that nobody knew about. Maybe it's an unusual coral reef. But it's the right size, the right shape, and it's in the right place to be part of the Electra," Gillespie said. (*The Guardian*)

Hofschneider said the government is upgrading Saipan's traffic lights and is soliciting proposals from parties interested in redoing road markers, along with repairing the Beach Road pathway lighting system.

During a question-and-answer with Rotary Club members, Tasi Tours' David Igitol brought up the long-standing concern of a lack of running water in restrooms located in Marpi. Hofschneider said this is in the priority list of the governor's Tourism Task Force.

The acting governor said the administration, along with its private and public partners, will continue cleanup and beautification efforts including the cleanup at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque that Hofschneider and Gov. Eloy E. Inos recently led.

Guam agriculturists propagating tissue-cultured taro plants



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rick Lizama of the Department of Agriculture and Alicja Wiecko of the University of Guam, Western Pacific Tropical Research Center have been propagating tissue-cultured taro plants funded by a USDA-TSTAR grant.

Alicja Wiecko of the University of Guam, Western Pacific Tropical Research Center (WPTRC) and Rick Lizama of the Department of Agriculture (DoA) have been propagating tissue-cultured taro plants funded by a USDA-TSTAR grant to make this staple crop available to farmers and backyard gardeners on Guam.

Taro (*Colocasia*) is a delicious alternative to potatoes, bread, and rice. It is a rich source of carbohydrates and fiber and considered easier than potatoes to digest due to its high fiber content. The young leaves of the taro plant can also be eaten and are delicious, especially when combined with coconut milk or fish.

From their stock they provided taro for the Department of Agriculture 9th Annual May Harvest Festival, including leaves for the Golai Hagon Suni (Taro Leaves in Coconut Milk), which drew rave reviews from attendees. "Everybody loved it! They were surprised to discover that the leaves from all the different taro varieties were used to make this traditional island dish," said Wiecko.

There are many taro plants of numerous varieties currently available for purchase at the Department of Agriculture. Call Department of Agriculture at 300-7972/3 for more information.

Taro is planted by inserting the sets (top of the corm

and base of the stems) into the ground at a depth of 10-15 cm (4-6"). Allow 60 cm (2 feet) distance between rows. Dry land taro takes 7-9 months to mature. Wetland taro takes 12-15 months to reach maturity.

The taro corm is mature when the plant size starts to decrease and there is some yellowing of the leaves. The corm should be visibly bulging out of the ground at the base of the plant.

It will be worth your while to get your taro plants started so that you can enjoy the health benefits of eating from your own taro patch.

For information on planting and growing taro, contact Guam Department of Agriculture at 300-7972/3. (PR)

Golai Hagon Suni (Taro Leaves in Coconut Milk)

4-6 servings

Ingredients:

20-30 taro leaves
1 cup coconut milk
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 onion, chopped
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
2 pieces of turmeric
several garlic cloves (to taste)

Directions:

- Boil 4 cups of water in a 4-quart pan.
- Chop clean washed taro leaves and add to boiling water.
- Cook until soft then drain.
- Sauté garlic, onions, turmeric in olive oil then add salt, black pepper to taste.
- Add cooked taro leaves and coconut milk. Let simmer for 3 to 5 minutes.
- Add hot pepper if desired.

Simple Taro Root Recipe

Taro root cooked in coconut milk is also delicious and easy to prepare. Peel and cut the taro into medium-size chunks. Sprinkle with salt to taste. Put in a pan and cover with coconut milk. Cook until soft (about 45 minutes).

Ed Buckingham responds to Taylor's discrimination lawsuit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham filed yesterday his answer to an age discrimination lawsuit filed against him and the CNMI government by former CNMI government counsel James William Taylor.

In his answer he filed pro se or by himself, Buckingham also asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss Taylor's lawsuit and award him attorney's fees and court costs. He demanded jury trial on all issues.

In his defenses, Buckingham asserted, among other things, that Taylor's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because they were not timely filed.

The former AG said Taylor's claims exceed the scope of the administrative charges or proceedings plaintiff brought before the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission or the Civil Rights Division of the CNMI.

He said the plaintiff's claims of discrimination are barred, in whole or in part, because they were not timely filed as required by the statute.

Buckingham said Taylor failed to give him and co-defendants CNMI government and the Office of the Attorney General reasonable notice and op-

portunity to remedy any alleged discriminatory conduct.

He alleged that Taylor was not terminated but, rather, resigned.

Buckingham also asserted that he is entitled to qualified immunity.

Last week, the OAG moved the court to dismiss Taylor's claims against Buckingham's co-defendants OAG and the CNMI government.

Assistant attorney general Reena J. Patel asserted, among other things, that Taylor had not stated sufficient facts to support his Age Discrimination in Employment Act claim as his complaint alleges that cost savings, rather than age motivated the alleged adverse action.

The government lawyer conceded that Taylor's resignation was involuntary and was, in fact, a discharge.

Taylor, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, filed the lawsuit of age discrimination last month against Buckingham, the CNMI government and OAG.

Taylor claimed that Buckingham fired him in 2011 without following proper procedures to save on cost and in retaliation for his advice against the approval of some sole-source contracts.

Taylor is a citizen of the state of Washington.

Celebrate

June 16, 2013

Father's Day at PIC

A hearty special Brunch in The Magellan

11 am to 2 pm - \$29 per adult, \$14.50 per child

An outdoor Brunch at the Pavilion

11 am to 2 pm - \$29 per adult, \$14.50 per child

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Terms of 2 regents expiring this month

» Host of proposed changes in policies to be endorsed to the board
» Podziewski remains faculty senate president until Aug. 10

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College will soon lose two of its members as the terms of William Torres and Frank Rabauliman are about to expire this month.

Torres served the unfinished term of then board chair Maria Paz Younis who quit the post in February 2011. Each board member is provided a four-year term to serve the policy-making board. Torres will officially end this remaining term of service on June 27.

Meanwhile, Rabauliman's last day as NMC regent is on June 30. He was appointed by then governor Benigno R. Fitial in June 2009 for a four-year term. To date, press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed that no new appointment or reappointment has been made yet by the governor, who has the sole authority to do so.

With the expiration of the two, members who will be left onboard are chair Juan Lizama, vice chair Elaine Orilla, Malua Peter, Andrew Orsini, and Michaela Sanchez. This year, three other terms are set to expire including that of Orsini's in September and Lizama's and Peters' in November. Orilla has just been reappointed for another four-year term while Sanchez was just recently confirmed for the position.

The board is scheduled to hold its regular meeting tomorrow where agenda includes a host of items pertaining to board and college policies.

Under the meeting agenda for June 6, there are 25 items to be endorsed for amendments. All this proposed policy changes pertain to the existing board operation and covers policy section 1000 through section 2024.

Under the existing policy on college operations, eight

specific sections have also been listed on the agenda for revision and changes. This includes section 2000 through section 9000.

Also included in the agenda items is the election of a vice chairperson. Policy on board organizational meeting dictates that the election of chairman of the board must be conducted on even numbered years, along with the election of treasurer. For odd-numbered years such as 2013, election of the vice chairperson is required. The president of the college, however, is always appointed as secretary of the Board of Regents pursuant to the board policy.

'Remains faculty president'

Meantime, Kyle Podziewski yesterday disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that he remains at present the president of the Senate faculty of NMC following his election two weeks

ago. He replaced former president Amanda Angel Diaz.

Although Podziewski's two-year employment contract was not renewed by the president, he confirmed that he will serve the college until the end of his term on Aug. 10. That includes his duties as the faculty head.

"I am technically Faculty Senate president; I am so until my contract expires on Aug. 10," he said yesterday, admitting fears on the potential "death" of the faculty senate organization under the current management of the college.

Podziewski was hired by the college from off-island on Aug. 10, 2011. He is the college reading instructor for two years now.

He earlier claimed that the president's action is a clear "retaliation and intimidation" because he is among the vocal critics of the president. Podziewski, along with long-time instructor Larry Lee, were recently issued non-renewal notices of their employment contract with the college.

PSS: 10 teachers resign, four principal posts to be announced

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public school students maybe in for the same overcrowding in their classrooms when the next school year opens as the number of teachers at the CNMI Public School System continue to decline.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., and PSS interim human resource officer Coreen Palacios announced yesterday that 10 classroom teachers as of this week have tendered their resignation for relocation purposes.

Records from the PSS show that the agency has a total of 906 employees on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota of which only 413 are classroom teachers. In the expected departure of 10 teachers beginning this summer, PSS' teacher workforce will slightly be reduced.

Recently, over 170 personnel of PSS, mostly teachers, were given 90-day non-renewal notice of their employment contracts due to their incomplete certification and licensure requirements pursuant to the State Board of Education policy and regulation.

Failure to fulfill the needed documentations will mean losing their jobs at the PSS unless extension is provided for them by the education board. However, the commissioner is optimistic that affected personnel will be able to fulfill the requirements on time so they could continue working next school year.

The declining number of classroom teachers, Sablan, said is primarily due to the limited local budget provided to the system each year. Unless there is a significant increase in the schools' budget in FY 2014, public schools will maintain the same range of educators for its increasing student population.

"We won't be able to recruit new teachers (for new school year 2013-2014) unless we will be provided the budget that we need," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*, expressing disappointment on the fate of \$40-million budget proposal from PSS and the education board.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh said that there are 276 personnel who are being funded by the federal grants received by PSS.

Under the proposed budget for next fiscal year, PSS is allocated \$33 million—a figure the commissioner said can enable the system to announce

the "replacement" teacher positions like the pending resignation of 10 teachers this summer.

She disclosed that PSS, in order to drop the big class ratios, needs to hire 100 more school personnel. Despite this reality, the commissioner is setting her expectations high—

for the best for students.

"We expect the best, or better each time. If the Legislature will provide us the money that we need then we can drop our class size and make everybody happy (in school). We need to hire 100 more for us to have an ideal class ratio of 23:1 or 25:1," added the commissioner.

Four principals post to be announced

Palacios disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that besides the 10 teacher resignations, HR will also be announcing four principals positions for next school year. This after she revealed that there are two individuals

serving the principal position as "interim" while two others were designated as "acting."

Schools with no permanent principals onboard are Kagman Elementary, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian Elementary, and Tinian Jr./Sr. High School.

Sablan explained that an acting individual is designated to act for a short-term period maybe for a day, a week, or a month. The interim position is the designation of someone who will act for a longer period of time or more than 90 days but not exceeding a year. Interim designation receives the salary offered by the system to a permanent in the position.

HR interim director resigned, too

Coreen Palacios, the interim HR officer, admitted to *Saipan Tribune* that she also will be leaving from the system this summer to relocate in the U.S.

Sablan said that the HR officer will also be announced, along with the replacement positions for teachers, support staff and principals.

Palacios has been with PSS for almost 10 years and started as a classroom teacher at Garapan Elementary School which she served for three years. She then moved to the central office as the system's HR professional development specialist, then as assistant HR, until she was appointed as interim officer.

"In 10 years, I grew at PSS. I love PSS, but we're relocating," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.



Sablan

5 suspected illegal immigrants from CNMI detained in Guam

Five Chinese nationals that allegedly illegally entered Guam from the CNMI using an inflatable boat with a motor were arrested and detained by federal agents in Guam yesterday morning.

Virginia Kice, the Western Regional Communications director for ICE, confirmed with Pacific News Center that Homeland Security special agents detained five Chinese nationals at approximately 10:15am yesterday near Ritidian Point.

Those detained included a husband and wife and their two children aged 14 and 2, along with another adult male.

Kice said near the beach where the five Chinese were detained, the agents found an inflatable boat with a motor, "which was presumably used to transport the group from the CNMI to Guam."

"All five appeared to be in good health, although the two men were suffering from minor sunburn," the ICE official said.

The two men were taken into ICE custody pending a decision by the courts on their removal cases.

The woman was released to care for their two children.

The woman's removal case will be decided by the immigration courts later.

"Meanwhile, HIS's [Homeland Security Investigations] investigation into the incident is ongoing. As such, that is all the information we are able to release at this time," Kice said.

It is not immediately known

whether the adult Chinese nationals were tourists or foreign contract workers in the CNMI.

This comes less than two years before the transitional Commonwealth-only worker program expires on Dec. 31, 2014 unless extended, and at a time when the CNMI government is planning to pursue Covenant Section 902 consultation with Obama for a permanent U.S. visa waiver for Chinese and Russian tourists to the islands. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2013

Opening date: June 5, 2013 Closing date: June 28, 2013

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position: (1) Executive Director

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than **4:30p.m., Friday, June 28, 2013.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact the CPA Human Resources by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
IFB NO.: IFB 13-HSEM-122**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 19, 2013
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF A MULTI-GAS AND RADIATION MONITORING SYSTEM FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY"

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS MAY RETRIEVE A COPY OF THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THE INVITATION FOR BIDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 13-DPS/BSS-126**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 14, 2013 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF OFFICE FURNITURES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY - BOATING SAFETY SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BE COME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ JAMES RABAUIMAN
ACTING COMMANDER, BAGS

Fund urges governor to reject poker bill

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund acting administrator Lillian M. Pangelinan is urging Gov. Eloy S. Inos not to sign a newly passed bill that appropriates \$3.3 million from the renewal of poker licenses to Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance and a

host of community projects.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation recently adopted House Local Bill 18-9 proposing to appropriate \$3 million to SHEFA and another \$300,000 for various projects and activities.

In a letter to Inos last Friday, Pangelinan requested that this legislation be disapproved in

its entirety and asked that the Executive Branch and the Fund jointly request that the Legislature repeal Public Law 17-85 so the Fund can receive the poker fees generated from all senatorial districts.

"Although it may seem paltry in light of the Fund's payment of over \$70 million a year in benefits, the additional \$3.3

million from Saipan can quickly add up when aggregated with the amounts that Rota and Tinian generate in poker fees," according to Pangelinan.

Furthermore, she said every dollar set aside for the Fund is a dollar closer to ensuring the continuation of benefit payments to the Fund members. Due to the limited portfolio value of the pension plan, experts have projected the program's life span to up only in March 2014.

The acting Fund chief said the delegation can also reconsider its decision on HLB 18-9.

Citing the provisions of the Poker Machine Act of 1986, Pangelinan said the "Act provided that the director of finance shall reserve 90 percent of all revenues raised from the licens-

ing of amusement machines under 4 CMC Section 1504(a) (2) for the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund and shall promptly deposit such revenues with the Commonwealth Treasury without further appropriation."

"Our children and community must be proved support and encouragement so we may all prosper. However, with the emergencies facing our utilities, hospital, and pension program, we must all seriously tighten our belts. Although SHEFA provides much needed financial assistance to our children as they pursue higher education, other financial assistance is available such as the CNMI Scholarship program, various federal educational loans and grants, and

grants and scholarships from private organizations," said Pangelinan.

The HLB 18-9 seeks to provide, on top of \$3 million for SHEFA, substantial amounts to SHEFA operation (\$100,000); Saipan Little League (\$20,000); Flame Tree Arts Festival (\$15,000); agricultural fair (\$5,000); Saipan Fishing Derby (\$5,000); Spear Fishing Association (\$3,000); Liberation Day festivities (\$15,000); and SNILD operational funds (\$20,000).

"Although each earmarked project has important functions, not one is more important than the NMI Retirement Fund—or is in as much dire need for infusion of capital," said Pangelinan, adding that the Fund requires a substantial cash infusion in order for its members to continue to receive their benefits beyond March next year.

4 suspects in Tanapag riot taken to court

A man who allegedly struck his cousin with a metal baseball bat on the forehead was taken to Superior Court yesterday along with three other men involved in a riot at a compound in Tanapag.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho kept the \$50,000 cash bail that he earlier imposed on Norbert T. Rios who was arrested on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and riot.

Norbert Rios himself sustained a laceration on the right

eye that required stitches.

Norbert T. Rios allegedly struck his cousin, Riomano Rios, with a metal baseball bat on the forehead during the riot that occurred on Saturday afternoon.

As of yesterday, Riomano Rios was still in critical condition in the Intensive Care Unit of the Commonwealth Health Center due to a brain hemorrhage and a fractured skull.

Camacho imposed a \$20,000 cash bail each for the three other defendants—Moses Rios Sr., 50; Moses Rios Jr., 18; and Jack

A. Rios, 20.

Moses Sr. is the father of the alleged victim Riomano. Moses Sr., Moses Jr. and Jack were arrested on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, riot, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Police learned from witnesses that Norbert got mad at Moses Sr. and his family for not shutting off the water faucet in the compound. A verbal tussle between Moses Jr. and Norbert escalated to beating and rock-throwing between the two families. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Guam man convicted of sexually assaulting 3 girls

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Prosecutors intend to seek a maximum sentence of life without parole for a Guam man convicted of sexually assaulting three girls.

The *Pacific Daily News* reports that Nicholas Camaddu, 52, was convicted of six counts of criminal sexual conduct. The verdict came Tuesday after a day of deliberations and a weeklong trial.

Camaddu was arrested last year after one of the girls, not yet a teenager, reported that she was pregnant. Police then un-

covered the two other victims.

During the trial, one of Camaddu's victims testified that he said he would kill her family if she told anyone about the abuse. The oldest of the victims, who is now an adult, told police Camaddu had molested her for about a decade, from the time she was 8 years old.

Prosecutors plan to pursue a sentence of life in prison without parole, according to Carlina Charfauros, spokeswoman for Attorney General Leonardo Rapadas. Sentenc-

ing is set for June 20.

Camaddu previously was convicted of criminal sexual conduct in 1979 after he and two other men raped a woman at knifepoint. The judge in that case described the crime as "gruesome" and said he regretted not being able to sentence Camaddu to life in prison.

"The defendant is a career rapist who must be locked up for a long time," Attorney General Leonardo Rapadas said in response to Tuesday's conviction.



PISTANG PINOY DONATION

United Filipino Organization members led by president Annamae Adaza, standing second from right, pose with Consul General Bayani Mangibin of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, standing second from left, during the check presentation ceremony of Pistang Pinoy 2013 main sponsor Docomo Pacific yesterday at the telecommunication company's office in Middle Road.

REINA PEREZ



REINA PEREZ

Consul General Bayani Mangibin of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam meets with Docomo general manager James Nelson before the check presentation where the telecommunication company donated \$5,000 for United Filipino Organization's holding of the Pistang Pinoy 2013 this year.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, M.P. 96950 • Tel. 664-2576 • Fax. 664-2570

CHILD CARE LICENSING PROGRAM Informative Drive

Are you interested to open a day care program or an afterschool program? If you are and would like to know how to go about doing it, please join us in one of our Information Drive scheduled as followed:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Every First Thursday of the Month	5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. Information Booth Only	Garapan Street Market Garapan Fishing Base
Wednesday, March 27, 2013	6:00pm. To 7:00p.m. with presentation • Minimum of 10 participants	American Memorial Park Theater
Wednesday, June 26, 2013	6:00pm. To 7:00p.m. with presentation • Minimum of 10 participants	American Memorial Park Theater
Wednesday, September 25, 2013	6:00pm. To 7:00p.m. with presentation • Minimum of 10 participants	American Memorial Park Theater
Friday, March 15, 2013	9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.	Rota DCCA Office
Friday, March 22, 2013	9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.	Tinian DCCA Office

The Child Care Licensing Program will be conducting scheduled information drive on the above dates and times. For those interested to attend the American Memorial Park Theater presentation, kindly call the Child Care Licensing Program at 664-2577 and look for Leilani Marciano to reserve your space. Only a maximum of 25 participants will be accommodated.

Approved for distribution: /s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
DCCA Secretary

Date: February 15, 2013

Funding from the Office of Child Care, US Department of Health and Human Services,
Administration for Children and Families



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp



NAHRO
building communities together

What Home Means to Me? POSTER CONTEST

ENTRY RULES:

- THEME: "What Home Means to Me?"
- Poster Size: No larger than 22" X 28"
- Media: Contestants may use any art media (marker, crayon, paint, collage, textiles, etc.), but please consider that posters will need to be packaged, mailed and reproduced.
- OPEN to all children residing in affordable housing assisted directly or supported under community development and affordable housing programs administered by a NAHRO member authority (i.e., public or Section 8-assisted housing, CDBG, HOME, LIHTC).
- NMHC employees and their immediate families

are ineligible to participate in this contest.

- All contestants must sign a release making their entry the property of NAHRO and permitting duplication/publication thereof.
- All contestants are asked to provide a short narrative on the inspiration, vision and importance of their poster design.

AGE CATEGORIES:

- 1) Elementary K to 5th grade;
- 2) Middle - 6th to 8th grade; and
- 3) High - 9th to 12 grade

- One entry per Household/Family
- Posters with copyrighted artwork, characters, or name brands (i.e., Coke, Pepsi) will automatically be disqualified.

Submission Deadline: All entries must be received by NMHC by the end of the business day, June 14, 2013.

For more information, please contact the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation at tel nos. (670) 234-9447/6866/7670 (Saipan); (670) 433-9213 (Tinian); or (670) 532-9410 (Rota).

"As part of NAHRO's Housing America campaign, a poster contest is held each year for children residing in affordable housing and community developments owned or administered by NAHRO member agencies. Posters reflect the national theme of "What Home Means to Me." The contest is a collaborative effort of NAHRO's chapter/state, regional, and national organizations. National honorees are selected from chapter/state-level winning entries."

PSS: MOU alternative if rate relief bill fails

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has found an alternative solution to address its longtime problem of high utility rates which continues to challenge the system every school year.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the Board of Education and PSS leadership are in initial discussion with Gov. Eloy S. Inos on the potential establishment of a memorandum of understanding between the agencies.

This memorandum of understanding, he said, pertains to how the central government can assist the public schools in meeting its obligations to the Commonwealth

Utilities Corp. which charges public schools "unreasonable" water and wastewater rates for many years.

Thornburgh admitted that this MOU, however, can only be done if a pending bill at the Legislature proposing rate relief to public schools will not prosper as desired.

"Let's see what will happen first with the budget (hearings) and on the pending bill at the House that would provide PSS rate relief (from CUC)," said Thornburgh, adding that anything established through legislation is stronger than signing a memorandum of understanding or agreement.

As a non-revenue generating agency, Thornburgh described as "ridiculous" the high rate being charged by CUC on pub-

lic schools. He said schools are being charged 10 times more than commercial users for water and 20 times more for its sewer consumption.

PSS is currently paying water rates of \$44.30 per 1,000 gallons and for sewer, the rate is \$68 per 1,000 gallons. Water charges are considerably higher than the commercial rate which is 72 cents per 1,000 to 3,000 gallons. Commercial rate for wastewater is only \$3 for 1,000 to 6,000 gallons.

The pending legislation proposes a 98.4 percent reduction on PSS' existing water and wastewater charges. Under the bill, CUC is recommended to recover the decrease in water and wastewater rates of the PSS by passing it on to its water and wastewater customers who are

paying the government rate.

"If this bill is passed into law, there's no need for an MOU (with the central government)," revealed Thornburgh.

Just six months in the fiscal year 2013, *Saipan Tribune* learned that PSS is already out of money to pay for its power consumption following disclosure that it has incurred \$2.390 million in utility charges from October 2012 through March 2013. This amount excluded late charges.

The rate relief legislation received opposition from the CUC which earlier claimed that if rates are lowered, without a corresponding budget allocation to other government agencies, the utility will continue to run huge deficits and further risk operational stability.

TWPI to present *Property Rites*

Imagine that you are in an art gallery, looking at a sculpture with many figures. What if the figures started coming to life? What if they began to have feelings? What if you are the gallery owner and spent millions of dollars for the sculpture and hoped to sell it at a profit? This is the high concept premise of the modern drama "Property Rites" by Alan Haehnel, set in the future or an alternate reality.

Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands presents the play *Property Rites* by Alan Haehnel on June 11, 2013 at the MHS Dolphin Theatre (T Building). The shows will be staged at 7pm.

The script of *Property Rites* introduces us to 15 figures in

a robotic sculpture, owned by Kyle McManus. He attempts to sell the art installation to the Pushtins (Rudy, Gladys, and Mike), but there are problems brewing. Technicians Brent and Leeza offer a drastic solution, but the mostly female figures, controlled by their male owner, have a different outcome in mind.

Thespian students from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Hopwood Junior High School, Grace Christian Academy, and the SAEF school will stage this play in Saipan and then will take it to the International Thespian Festival at Lincoln, Nebraska in June.

The cast and crew, who

were the overall winners in the CNMI thespian competitions, are Mikhail Alcantara, Harold Aranda, Grace Barro, Darren Cajipo, Lady Dominique Canape, Simei Charfaurous, Anne Cruz, Jorem Guardian, Diane Hermogenes, Noel Jimenez, Soon Kwon, Rosemarie Liango, Annabel Manzo, Robert Marmito, Cyril Salcedo, Rolando Sangalang, Ericka Serrano, Vivian Viernes, Andrew Villanueva, and Kyle Villegas.

Property Rites by Alan Haehnel, produced by Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands: Tickets cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. For more information, contact Harold Easton at Marianas High School, or call 285-1657. (PR)

Dictionaries delivered to Dandan, 2 schools left

By **REINA S. PEREZ**
STUDENT REPORTER

The Saipan Rotary Club gave an update on the dictionary program in their weekly meeting Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Rotarian Kelley Butcher, vocational services chair, said the dictionaries have been delivered to Dandan Elementary School. The two schools left are San Vicente Elementary School and Koblerville Elementary School.

Butcher was unable to make the trip to Rota to distribute dictionaries. In her stead, recently inducted Rotarian Thomas Thornburgh will be going to Rota and carrying dictionaries to distribute.

The local civic organization's dictionary drive distributes Merriam Webster dictionaries, at a cost of \$4 each, to third grade students of CNMI public schools.

It is modeled after Guam's own dictionary campaign and has since been emulated in other Rotary Club districts in Micronesia such as in Palau, Pohnpei, and Chuuk.

In all, the organization has spent \$4,000 for the dictionary project this year.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

To our son Jode T. Reyes, wishing you a happy 12th birthday and many more blessed and happy years to come. We wish you all the best and we are very proud of all your accomplishments. We love you bulalalalalalalalala. Greetings from your families and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 5, 2004

No solutions in sight

The Commonwealth's Utilities Corp. acknowledged yesterday that it is faced with two gigantic emergency situations—a water crisis and a power supply dilemma—but it is short of solutions. "Don't just tell us about the problems here. We already know the problems but where are the solutions? Where is your recommendation? We want to see solutions. Put them on the table because you guys know better," CUC board chair Herman P. Sablan told the management, represented by deputy executive director Bernard Villagomez, in yesterday's board meeting. CUC executive director Lorraine was absent. She is reportedly in Japan on an official trip, working in relation with the administration's housing project.

Opinions divided on bills empowering councils

Former senator Juan "Morgen" Tenorio and former municipal council member David Igitol have expressed opposition to two legislative initiatives granting municipal councils lawmaking authority. Tenorio believes that this would only result in additional burden for taxpayers. At the same time, he said that setting up the system such as hiring staff would cost more money. Igitol said this would only duplicate the functions of the existing local delegations—composed of local lawmakers and the municipal mayors—that tackle and address local concerns in aid of legislation.

Igitol reportedly said it should be "one way or the other."

June 5, 2005

Privatization is next priority'

After securing a two-year fuel contract with Mobil Oil Marianas, the Babauta administration now wants the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to expedite its privatization of power generation to ensure a more efficient delivery of power services. In a statement Friday, the Governor's Office "encourages CUC to fast track the privatization of Power Plant I." It said this is needed since CUC's power plants are old and poorly maintained. "The CUC has not purchased additional engines in over a decade. The capacity and efficiency of new engines will greatly improve the financial condition of the CUC," said the office.

US Ambassador Schieffer to visit NMI

Newly assigned U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Thomas Schieffer will serve as the federal government's highest ranking official to attend the Japanese imperial couple's two-day visit to Saipan this month. Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who met with the ambassador in Tokyo last week in relation to airline services in the CNMI, said that Schieffer and his wife will arrive on Saipan a few days before the royal couple's visit. "We're very happy to have them here on the island. The ambassador and his wife are arriving a couple of days before the royal couple. He is going to be the highest ranking U.S. government official," said the governor.

June 5, 2006

OPA affirms PSS decision on Rota school project bid

The Office of the Public Auditor sided with the Division of Procurement and Supply in its dispute with one of the bidders for a Rota school project. Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan issued a decision Thursday affirming Procurement's decision to deny the bid protest filed by DK Brothers in relation to the construction of additional classrooms at Rota Junior High School. Sablan said that, contrary to DK Brothers' allegation, the Procurement did not violate any laws or regulations by including the lowest bidder, Pacific Cooperation Limited, from the process.

Labor OKs \$10K settlement of three workers' case

The Department of Labor has approved an agreement that settles for \$10,000 Labor's complaint on behalf of three nonresident workers against a corporation. Labor administrative hearing officer Barry Hirschbein said he finds the terms of the settlement agreement in the case against Energy Corp. as fair and voluntarily agreed upon by the parties. Pursuant to the agreement, Energy Corp. will pay on or before July 31, 2006 its former workers Feng Zhang in the amount of \$600; Yun Zhang for \$4,000; and Weidong Ji for \$5,400. Hirschbein said the three employees are authorized to seek a transfer employer within 45 days. If Energy Corp. does not make the payment, Ikuro Yoshizawa and Hideaki Sawada, officers of the corporation, agree to be personally liable for the payment.



Water outage in 3 villages today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the residents of Koblerville, Tototville, and Afetna that a nine-hour water outage is scheduled for today, June 5, 2013 from 8am to 5pm.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., to replace existing non-working gate valves along Koblerville

Road. This project is part of the Koblerville Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement Project funded by the USA-EPA. The water outage will affect residents living in the Koblerville, Tototville, and Afetna area.

CUC's operations team and AIC Marianas will be working hard to return service to customers in these affected areas

as soon as possible. Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project and the water service interruption. Please direct inquiries to Yvonne Cabrera, project manager, at 235-7025-30, extension 324. (CUC)

Local author tells son's story through book



Riza Ramos, author of *The Boy Who Dreamed to Be With His Parents on Saipan*, at her book signing booth on Saturday at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library's 20th anniversary celebration last Saturday.

By REINA S. PEREZ
STUDENT REPORTER

"I am a born writer."

This is Riza Ramos' reply whenever people ask her why she wrote a children's book. She is currently a nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center Hemodialysis unit.

The inspiration for her book, *The Boy Who Dreamed to Be With His Parents on Saipan*, was born out of her son's biography school project when he was a third grader at Mount Carmel School. It was there she realized that her son's story was a story

and grandparents. The main mystery of the book is whether or not Emmanuel Ramos will ever see his parents again. The book is written for the fourth grade level.

"It's packed with moral lessons," Ramos said about her book.

A week after she finished her son's project, former *Saipan Tribune* columnist Walt Goodridge announced that he would be conducting a workshop for writers, photographers, and artists. She took the opportunity to attend the workshop and presented her final manuscript to Goodridge. He left his contact number in case Ramos had any further questions and said that it was a good book.

Ramos then hired Rodante Guardia for illustrations and Heather Linday for editing. Goodridge did the layout and publication through a website.

It is Ramos' hope that people will learn from her book.

Ramos is married to Ferdinand Ramos, a heavy equipment operator at AIC Marianas. The couple has two children, Fernand Emmanuel O. Ramos, 6, and Ferdinand Ramos Jr., 2.

The book is available at Best-seller Bookstore beside Joeten Superstore and in the CNMI Books and Resource Center for \$14.95.

"The Boy Who Dreamed To Be With His Parents on Saipan" can also be bought in hardcopy form on Amazon for \$14.95 and in digital form through Kindle for \$4.95, with English and Spanish versions.

many people could learn from. "It's not just his story but stories of millions of kids who experienced being away from their parents."

Ramos was present at a book-signing event last Saturday along with other local authors during the Joeten Kiyu Public Library's 20th anniversary celebration.

The book as described in Ramos' website is "a story for anyone who has ever been a child." The book tells of a boy, Emmanuel Ramos, who misses his mom and dad who are working on Saipan. He currently stays in Manila with his aunt, cousins,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, faculty advisor Dr. Richard Colfax, UOG SHRM Student Chapter vice president Gabryel Franquez, public relations officer Andrea Carlos, president Ashley Charfauros, and member Phillip Bamba pose for a group photo.

UOG SHRM Student Chapter receives Superior Merit Award

The Society for Human Resources Management has awarded the "Superior Merit Award" to the University of Guam SHRM Student Chapter. The award nationally recognizes the UOG SHRM Student Chapter for its outstanding activities and projects in 2012-2013. This marks the 15th time the UOG SHRM Student Chapter has received this distinction.

To be eligible for the Superior Merit Award, a chapter must meet all chapter affiliation requirements and complete a variety of activities including chapter operations, fundraising, legislative advocacy, hosting seminars or conferences, interacting with the local profes-

sional SHRM chapters, attending SHRM conferences, supporting the SHRM Foundation and participating in internships, and mentorships to name a few.

"The student officers and members have once again made this possible," said Dr. Richard Colfax, faculty advisor. "Their hard work, dedication, activities and collaboration have earned them this recognition from SHRM. I am proud and honored to be the advisor for this wonderful, great student chapter which exemplifies UOG's Excellence."

The UOG SHRM Student Chapter will be recognized at the SHRM Annual Student Con-

ference and the Annual Conference and Exposition in Chicago this month. Attending the conferences are UOG SHRM Student Chapter president Ashley Charfauros, vice president Gabryel Franquez, public relations officer Andrea Carlos, member Phillip Bamba, and faculty advisor Dr. Richard Colfax.

The conferences are the largest for Human Resources professionals with nearly 15,000 attending each year. Among featured conference speakers this year are U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, best-selling author Daniel Pink, and renowned journalist Fareed Zakaria. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Energy Star Rebate Program temporarily suspended

The CNMI Energy Division has temporarily suspended its Energy Star Rebate Program effective immediately until further notice. This temporary program suspension will allow the CNMI Energy Division Office to reconcile all rebate vouchers.

For more information, con-

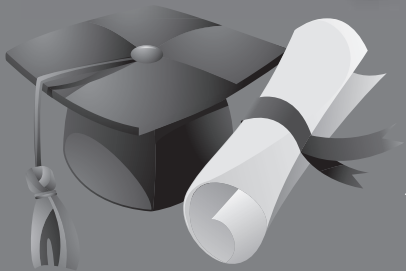
tact the Energy Division-Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program office at 664-4487/89/90. (PR)

NSA's 2013 Tee Ball league season

The Natibu Sports Association is looking for interested teams to participate in its upcoming 2013 Tee Ball league that is tentatively scheduled to start on Saturday,

July 13. Space is limited and we will only accommodate the first eight teams that register. If you are interested, call Claire Sablan at 287-7352 to reserve a slot for your team. The first team meeting will be on Friday, June 7, at NSA's building in Tanapag village right next to the Tanapag Elementary School. The team is open to boys and girls ages 4-8. No experience is required. (PR)

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2013 Graduation Feature

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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

For Colombia and FARC, a way forward

President Juan Manuel Santos' decision last year to restart peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia was understandably met with skepticism. After all, three similar efforts over three decades failed to bring an end to the violence that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and displaced some 3 million people in the region's longest-running internal conflict.

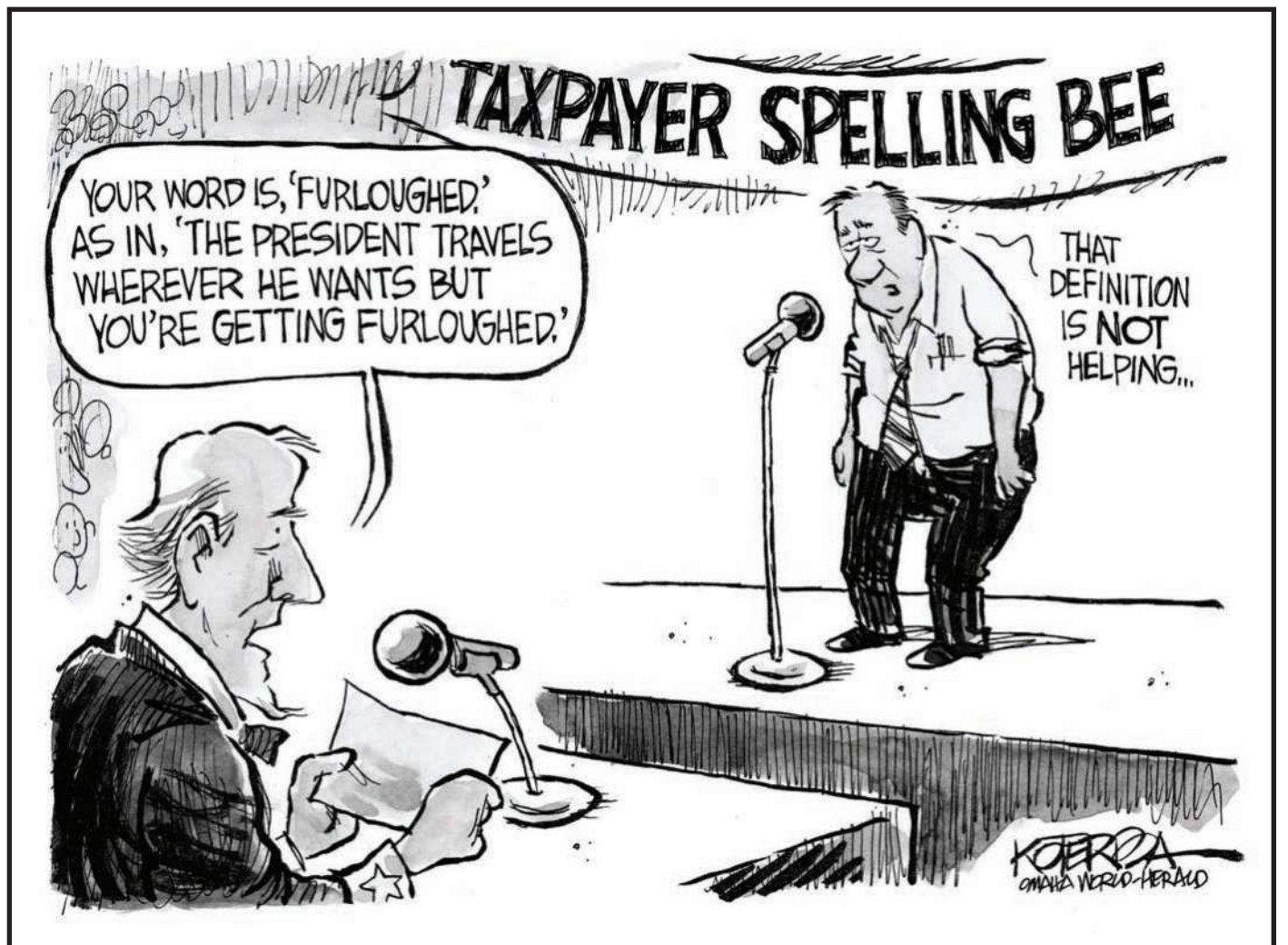
But this time there is reason for hope. Earlier this week, the Santos administration and the rebel group, known as FARC, announced that they had reached a landmark agreement on agrarian reform. Under the agreement, the government would conduct a survey of all lands in the country and issue land titles. A land fund would be created that would include underused or homesteaded parcels, which would be redistributed to landless peasants and people who have been displaced. The government would also establish a development fund that would provide a wide range of assistance, from credit to paving roads to building schools in remote areas.

Unequal distribution of land and lack of development are two of the issues that ignited the FARC insurrection in 1964 and that have continued to fuel violence in the countryside. The United Nations Development Program has estimated that 1.5 percent of Colombia's population owns more than 50 percent of the country's land.

Critics, including former President Alvaro Uribe, are already taking aim at the agreement; Uribe tweeted that the FARC isn't sincere in pursuing a real or lasting peace. But such arguments fail to recognize that Colombia's military can't shoot its way out of the conflict. It has tried and failed for 50 years. Colombia must seize this rare opportunity to move forward, the result of recent military victories that have weakened the Marxist rebel group and motivated it to seek peace, even though it remains capable of inflicting serious damage.

Santos is on the right path, but there is still much to be hammered out, including how to demobilize and disarm the former guerrillas. Colombia will need political and financial support from the United States and other countries if an accord is signed. The Obama administration has expressed its support for the process, and should continue to stand by its ally as the talks continue next month.

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Spaceship Earth

The late Buckminster Fuller latched on to the metaphor of the Earth as a spaceship hurling in an elliptical motion around an insignificant star, the Sun, in a corner of a minor galaxy, the Milky Way.

This emerging consciousness of what since fully evolved into an environmental movement was aided by the powerfully evoking picture of the planet taken by Apollo astronauts of a blue orb rising from the lunar horizon, now dubbed the "earthrise." Spaceship earth showed no political boundaries that our map-oriented minds took for granted, and the definition of nation-states that visa-separated one earthling from another.

I would later gaze at a fabulous Mactan sight with my eldest daughter noticing how marvelous the sunset was until she said, "Dad, that's an earth turn!"

In the '60s, we were a youngish theologian gathered around a coal-fired furnace with members of a Faith and Life Community House near the campus of the NC-Greensboro U in the Piedmont when the earthrise image rose. Steeped in the medieval tradition of gazing up unto Heaven, but increasingly getting lucid about the Egyptian-inherited practice of Rah-veneration as totally irrelevant to an earth-centric existence, we were pleased to replace Zeus of Olympus and Deus of the Roman pantheon with the old YHWH of Moses, and the Tao of Lao Tze, the Way Life Is.

In 1962, Rachael Carson penned disturbing *Silent Spring* that revealed extensive poisoning of North American air and aquifers caused by agrarian pesticides, insecticides, and fertilizers. That led to the banning of DDT, a common chemical in many households.

We were a guest camp counselor in Maine for the United Church of Christ in the summer of '67 at a lake in Litchfield near Augusta when we encountered the DDT residual effect on mosquitoes. The State tried to eradicate the critters earlier with widespread spraying of the chemical. It resulted in a resilient breed that buzzed like mini-drones and stung like Mohammad Ali's bees!

We returned to Manila as an effete religious social activist with a Caucasian spouse ready to battle the forces of evil in the comfort of ecclesiastical garb at Ferdinand Marcos rather riotous watch. He declared Martial Law in '72, though not without the assent of the U.S. State Department, and quietly toasted by the merchants of war materials, as the move purportedly was cooked around a military camp in Korea. Clark Air Force Base and the U.S. Naval Base at Subic Bay were at the time Pentagon's hub in the Far East.

Right about the same time, the Club of Rome issued its *Limits to Growth* that highlighted the reality of the demand-and-supply equation as not infinite. Earth as a supplier of natural resources is not limitless, so demand had to be more intentional.

Serendipitously, we joined an intentional community of religious clergy and laity the day Marcos declared martial. For a decade, a corporate body sought to express their intense faith in the trustworthiness and goodness of life by fearlessly plumbing

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



with their lives the profound depth of life's mysteries, deriving intense height of ecstasy from unconditional human expenditure, done within a comprehensive view of history and prophecy, (genesis to apocalypse), focusing on the human factor in world development. A tall order, it was, but an engaging one in the new dispensation of politico-ecological awareness that was coming to vogue at the time.

We resided in Canada in 1976 when we staffed our NGO at the Vancouver United Nations Conference on Ecology. Marshall McLuhan of the Medium-is-the-Message fame is often quoted as saying: "There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew."

As a secular-religious in the '60s, we were only too aware of the boundaries of fragility, the intimations of our mortality, and the nuances of our finitude, but we were not yet ancient, and we soldiered on for a decade of relentless prodding the wealth of the human psyche around the world.

The UN's Brundtland Report of 1987 got our mission code into public discourse. The report defined "sustainable development" as meeting the needs of the present without compromising future generations. It identified three pillars: economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity.

Economic growth continues today oblivious of a limitless supply of resource. The earth consumes 150 percent of its regenerative capacity. Definitely not sustainable. The protest on the Keystone pipeline and northeast fracking of fossil fuel extractive industries challenges the nation's political union, reveals the reach of the oil political lobby, and questions the very nature of Wall Street itself. Citizen's participation against Monsanto's chemically aided farming reached the global stage this week.

Entropy is the law existence. Spaceship Earth is a singular trip, a one-time-only journey, and mine is but a measly 87-year segment of it, not even a blimp in the HDTV of life. I am but a crewmember, albeit, of a cancerous global brain. Still, I aim to ride this baby with gusto, knowing that while intentionality may falter, the journey is what journeys on!

Hi-ho, tally-ho, around the sphere as it careens into the stars! Oblivion will occur, mine and later, the spaceship. Meanwhile, Gaia journeys on.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

NMC in leadership crisis

The focal point in the lack of leadership at NMC isn't about the termination of instructors as much as the president's violation of citizens' "inalienable" rights to freedom of expression under the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

For people like Ms. Sharon Hart who walks around with such academic accolade as a Ph.D., it should be second nature to her understanding the meaning of the term "inalienable." If I may define it for her benefit, it simply means that which can't be "infringed nor violated".

Even the U.S. Congress, Ms. Hart, is prohibited by the same national constitution from violating the inalienable rights of citizens. I fail to see where such constitutional provision made an exception to the president of NMC.

Why do you think the U.S. IRS and Department of Justice are under investigation as we speak before U.S. Congressional panels? Isn't it about the violation of the very rights you've seen fit to savage against the two instructors and the reckless imposition of the fear factor?

Your paternalistic and autocratic decision further imperils the accreditation of NMC. How long has NMC been under "show cause" status? Or is it a case of your holding some filthy excess baggage against some board members thus, the obvious humiliating servile demeanor or intellectual paralysis out of fear of being exposed? Isn't this a modern day slave-master relationship?

Too, why is it that the termination of instructors didn't originate from their immediate supervisors? Interestingly, why has the board decided to take on the role of the fattest ostrich in town? So what's good is your purpose in this instance?

The violation of citizens' "inalienable" rights, as in the case of the two instructors, is a definite ground for immediate termination of the president. Some sense of sanity is a needed respite in the midst of the insanity stormed-up by Ms. Hart. Now, if the Board of Regents can't boot Ms. Hart out in the interest of protecting students and the institution, then it too becomes an outlaw organization!

The blinding aspect of Medicaid

We've heard warning from nonvoting Delegate Kili about the benefits of Medicaid, specifically some \$150 million for the NMI. Understandably, it's money that scaffolds the operations of CHC.

But is it money that would guarantee a healthier populace and must we not probe the flip side of how this would adversely affect the indigenous people?

Fact: The ACA has triggered a doubling of health insurance premiums here. It would be good to know how much more does this translate into in terms of dollar figures for the 5,000 retirees who've opted for health insurance under their pension package. AETNA, Calvo's, Stay Well, and others; please place this figure publicly so we can see the effects of Obamare's ACA.

John Goodman, president of the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA), nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy research organization, said in his testimony on the impact of Obamacare before pertinent congressional committee:

"The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) will radically transform the U.S. health care system. Arguably the most radical piece of legislation ever passed by Congress, the law will affect everyone with private insurance, every senior on Medicare, everyone on Medicaid. The bill will create 159 new regulatory agencies. Its first 10-year cost is close to \$1 trillion. It is intentionally designed to fundamentally alter the way medicine is practiced in this country.

"The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the average annual cost of a minimum benefit package at \$4,500 to \$5,000 for individuals and \$12,000 to \$12,500 for families in 2016. That translates into a minimum health benefit of \$2.28 an hour for full-time workers with individual coverage and \$5.89 an hour for full-time employees with family coverage.

"The law does not specify how much of the premium must be paid by the employer versus the employee—other than a government requirement that the employee's share cannot exceed 9.5 percent of family income for low- and moderate-income workers, and an industry rule of thumb that employers must pick up at least 50 percent of the tab. But the economic effects are the same, regardless of who writes the checks.

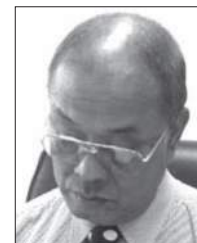
"In another year and a half, the minimum cost of labor will be a \$7.25 cash minimum wage and a \$5.89 health minimum wage (family), for a total of \$13.14 an hour or about \$27,331 a year. You can see already that few firms are going to want to hire low-wage workers with families.

"Economists have been studying the labor market for years and there are three principles that are well established in the

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



literature:

"1. Total employee compensation tends to equal the value of what workers produce—that is, what they add to overall output, at the margin.

"2. Noncash benefits (e.g., health insurance) substitute dollar-for-dollar for cash wages.

"3. If the minimum compensation required is higher than what workers are able to produce, they will be priced out of the labor market.

"To confirm these principles, economists use sophisticated mathematical models and conduct elaborate statistical tests. But these conclusions are what ordinary common sense would predict anyway.

"For above-average-wage employees, expect wage stagnation over the foreseeable future, as employers use potential wage increases to pay for expanded (and mandated) health benefits instead. At the low end of the wage scale, however, the effects of this new law are going to be devastating.

"Ten-dollar-an-hour workers and their employers cannot afford \$6-an-hour health insurance. If they bought it, only \$4 would be left for cash wages and that would violate the (cash) minimum wage law. This is not a small problem. One-third of uninsured workers earn less than \$3 above the minimum wage.

"Further, although health economists have known for decades that these are the workers that most need help in obtaining insurance, there are no new subsidies to help employees buy health insurance. These workers and many others are at risk of losing their jobs.

Caveat: It pays to know what are in the whirlwind of one too many free federal doles and their impact on health and other collateral issues here, i.e., jobs destruction.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please fix NMC

Dear governor,

You should know that many in the community were disappointed you did not pursue the ferry that would have surely helped to start an affordable inter-island transportation system to connect Tinian and Rota. But I will say it is clear to me that your administration is truly trying to make real changes. Will these changes prove to be successful or not remains to be seen but I am glad to see that you and the lieutenant governor are taking the risk to change, which give me hope.

I am writing you to ask for your help on behalf of the citizens and stakeholders in NMC who have had enough! In fact, that is how you became governors because the people had enough of former governor Benigno R. Fitial so I hope you will take this request very serious for the sake of your own political careers—the people are not playing politics anymore they want result or you are out!

Governor, I hope you read the letters to the editor on "The maintenance of fear" at NMC, "A scary situation at NMC" and my letter "NMC just can't get it right." These letters should have set off alarm BELLS that it is time to do something about fixing NMC. For too long NMC has been floundering going nowhere fast and now there is another incident that has the stakeholders in an uproar. When will enough be enough at NMC governors?

I truly believe the epicenter of NMC's problems is the regents, not so much the president. This governing body had allowed the culture and atmosphere at NMC to become what it is today. They have hired one wrong leader after another. With no consistent leadership it is easy to see why the institution is still floundering. The governing body has continued to exhibit the

behavior of "protecting the president over addressing the desires of the stakeholders." Each time a complaint is brought against the president the regents act as a shield for the president until it is obvious they can no longer protect the president and they are forced to let them go. It should not be this way as once the president is hired their job should stand on the merits and not be depending on the Board for protection.

The regents are political appointments and that says it all. Some of them have even been there over a decade but the reason board members have limited terms is because things like "tunnel vision and self or individual-ownership" become real adverse factors preying on the decision making. I'm not saying the board hasn't done some good things and don't care—it's just time for change. I do believe that the board as a whole is suffering from these factors, which is compounded by their desires to support and protect their president, the only person they hired. Well, it is far more important to make sure the person who is doing all the hiring and firing does it right, fair, and in the best interest of the stakeholders, not for the president's comfort.

Governor, please give NMC new hope in a new Board of Regents just like you have done with the Scholarship Board—enough is enough at NMC. NMC needs new leadership (regents, president, and dean of academic programs)! Do something governor if you want the institution to ever get on course for a new direction and growth to become the four-year institution we need!

Ambrose M Bennett
Former BOE Member

Perplexing cue

The nomination of attorney Ray Quichocho is turning into a messy idea by the responsible nominator of this person. The only factor that counts on this nomination is not because of the sorely desired "wants" of the elitists nominating this person, but instead should be based solely on the "needs" of the people of the CNMI. Aside from the anecdotal evidence presented by nominators, what better predictor would serve to ascertain this nominee's integrity, trustworthy, and respectability evaluation than empirical facts we already knew from substantive and credible sources?






The other consideration to this seemingly tricky and uncertain nomination begs the question whether this nominee is the only person in the CNMI who is best qualified to sit as a respectful, a trustful, and an honorable Superior Court judge? We all have to remember that this nomination is a perplexing cue of governing that eludes the elitists on the key point of the obvious and a missed opportunities to do right and satisfy the greater public demand for good government. A disregard of this situation by those voting in favor in the Senate, and the elected representatives in the House who are not registering their voices would be just as derelict of their duty in advancing and advocating the promise for good government to the people of the CNMI. The obfuscation to all this is not because the governed is generally just a spectator and their presence in the play is just that, but the umpire is calling "out" after the fourth strikes. But then again, the offensive and defensive players in the Legislature could agree that their are three outs in an inning.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kanat Tabla

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

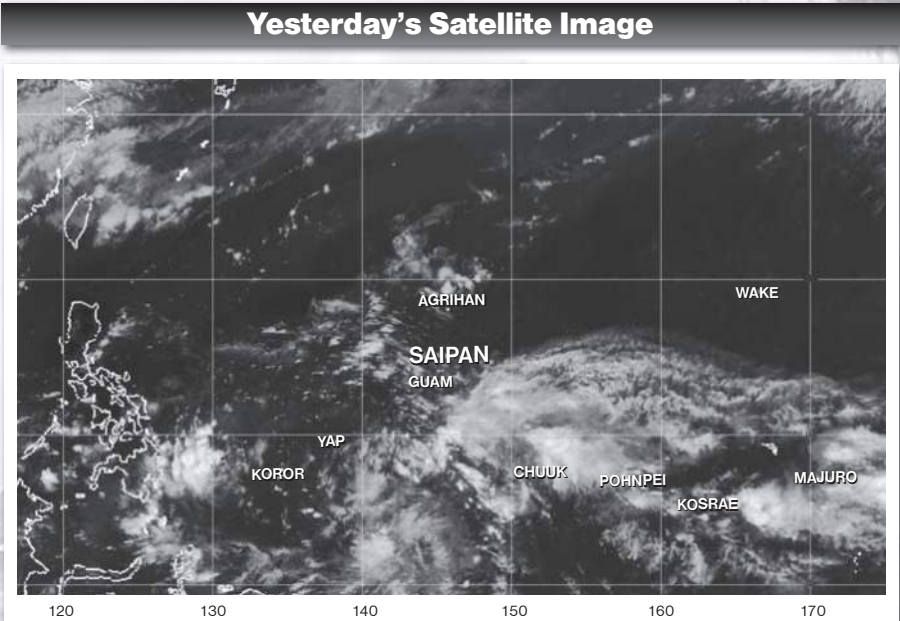
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 91 ▼ 81
Palau	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 92 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Rain	▲ 60 ▼ 50
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 93 ▼ 71
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 50
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 59
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 94 ▼ 81
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 49
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲ 81 ▼ 76
New York	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 54
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 66
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 58
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 64
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 56
Salem	Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 54
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 63
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 65
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 61

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:37 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough west of the Marianas extends northeastward from 14N140E to 21N146E. An upper-level low is centered near 18N135E. The two features are combining to trigger isolated thunderstorms northwest of the Marianas within 150 miles of the trough axis. A near-equatorial trough meanders east-southeastward through 130E at 5N to 3N138E then turns to the east-northeast to pass through a broad circulation southeast of Yap near 4N144E before heading southeast to end near EQ150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found between Yap and Chuuk between the equator and 10N from 140E to 150E and south of Koror south of a line from 3N133E to 2N138E. A trade-wind surge is combining with divergence south of an upper-level trough to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marianas and near Chuuk and Pohnpei within 200 miles either side of a line from 11N146E to 8N160E. A large area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms is found near Kosrae between 3N and 6N from 157E to 170E and across much of the Marshall Islands between 2N and 10N from 170E to the date line.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:46 AM	6:45 PM	Today	3:02 AM	3:56 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM	Thursday	3:44 AM	4:46 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM	Friday	4:29 AM	5:36 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM	Saturday	5:15 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM	Sunday	6:03 AM	7:13 PM

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily	UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5	MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)				KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7	SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)				VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16	XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

Business

US auto sales roar back in May, led by pickups

DETROIT (AP)—Full-size pickups once again dominated U.S. auto sales in May, as small businesses—increasingly confident in the economy—raced to replace the aging pickups they held on to during the recession.

Car buyers, too, were lured by low interest rates and Memorial Day sales. Overall, U.S. consumers bought 1.4 million vehicles in May, up 8 percent from

the same month a year ago, according to Autodata Corp. The results suggest the auto industry will remain a bright spot in an economy that's been slowed by weak manufacturing. And the boost from the industry will help sustain the economy's steady job growth.

Most automakers topped analysts' expectations last month, with Nissan reporting its highest May sales ever after cutting prices on seven popular models. Chrysler, Ford, Honda and Toyota also reported increases. Only Volkswagen's sales were down from last May.

Automakers sold 173,972 full-size pickups in May, the highest total since a year-end rush last December, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank. Sales of Ford's F-Series pickup, which is the country's best-selling vehicle, rose 31 percent to a six-year high of 71,604. General Motors and Chrysler also posted full-size truck sales gains of more than 20 percent.

Those sales have reverberated in the job market. Ford said in early May that it's adding 2,000 workers to the Missouri plant that makes the F-150. From January through April, automakers and parts companies hired 14,600 workers, and the Center for Automotive Research expects them to add



In this Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013 file photo, a buyer moves between rows of 2013 Ram pickup trucks and Dart sedans at a Dodge dealership in Littleton, Colo.

35,000 over the full year.

Car dealers are also hiring, with the average number of employees rising from 53 to 55 last year, said the National Auto Dealers Association. More are expected to be hired this year.

The Federal Reserve's low interest rate policies have helped nurture sales by keeping loan rates low. A 48-month new-car loan now averages 2.92 percent, according to Bankrate.com.

And despite the weak manufacturing numbers, other bright spots—like home building and oil and gas drilling—are fueling the auto sales boom.

Home construction rose 12 percent in the first three months of this year, and builders—along with plumbers, landscapers and painters—need work vehicles. GM said sales of vans to small commercial buyers, or those with fleets

of one to four vehicles, rose 17 percent in May.

Automakers are also selling more trucks in Texas, the Da-

kotas, Montana and elsewhere thanks to increased drilling. For the month ending May 24, U.S. oil production was up 18 percent to 7.3 million barrels per day, according to the Energy Department.

Strong sales of pickups in May—not typically a blowout month for trucks—signal that businesses feel more certain about the future, said Jesse Toprak, senior analyst for the TrueCar.com auto pricing site.

"Businesses tend to make better financial decisions because they have to," he said. "They tend to wait longer. But when they do come back, they come back in large numbers."

May sales wiped away a disappointing April, when the annualized rate for U.S. auto sales dropped below 15 million for the first time in six months. In May, the rate hit 15.3 million. Toprak said he's now considering raising his forecast for full-year U.S. auto sales above 15.5 million. The industry sold 14.5 million vehicles in 2012.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

White House promises veto of GOP spending plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House stepped in Monday with a veto threat against a House GOP plan to advance a round of 2014 spending bills that would ease sequester-imposed cuts on the Pentagon while forcing even deeper cuts on non-defense programs. Those cuts would come in areas like education, energy and water development and foreign aid. In a statement, the White House budget office said the cuts called for in the GOP plan would force thousands of poor children off of Head Start, harm special education, cut federal law enforcement and dent medical research grants to thousands of scientists. It called on the Democratic Senate and GOP House to reach a broader agreement on the budget before advancing spending bills.

Dunkin' taking doughnut bacon sandwich national

NEW YORK (AP)—Even as fast-food chains tout their healthy offerings, they're also coming up with fatty new treats to keep customers interested. Case in point: Dunkin' Donuts is adding a doughnut breakfast sandwich to its national menu this week. The sandwich, which comes with fried eggs and bacon between a split glazed doughnut, will become a part of the permanent menu starting Friday, which the chain claims is "National Donut Day." Dunkin' Donuts had tested the sandwich in select stores in eastern Massachusetts in April, creating considerable buzz online. Notably, Dunkin' Donuts says the "Glazed Donut Breakfast Sandwich" clocks in at 360 calories, which is less than the 390 calories for the turkey sausage sandwich it recently introduced for people looking to eat better.

New IRS head says taxpayers no longer trust agency

WASHINGTON (AP)—His agency under relentless fire, the new head of the Internal Revenue Service acknowledged to Congress on Monday that American taxpayers no longer trust the IRS amid a growing number of scandals—from the targeting of conservative political groups to lavish spending on employee conferences.

But Acting Commissioner Danny Werfel declared he was "committed to restoring that trust." He said he has installed new leadership at the agency and is conducting a thorough review of what went wrong and how to fix it.

He promised the transparency that was lacking for several years as tea party groups complained about harassment by the IRS, only to be met with denials from the agency.

"We must have the trust of the American taxpayer. Unfortunately, that trust has been broken," Werfel told a House Appropriations subcommittee in his first public appearance since taking over the agency nearly two weeks ago. "The



Werfel

agency stands ready to confront the problems that occurred, hold accountable those who acted inappropriately, be open about what happened, and permanently fix these problems so that such missteps do not occur again."

"It has to start," Werfel added, "with a recognition that a trust has been violated."

Werfel testified at a difficult time for the agency. Criticized from inside and outside the government, Werfel went to Capitol Hill to ask for a big budget increase. President Barack Obama has requested a 9 per-

cent increase in IRS spending for the budget year that starts in October, in part to help pay for the implementation of the new health care law.

House Republicans have voted 37 times to eliminate, defund or partly scale back the Affordable Care Act, and many are not eager to increase funding for an agency that will play a central role in enforcing compliance.

"We will have to think very carefully about how much money to provide to the IRS," said Rep. Ander Crenshaw, R-Fla., chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on financial services and general government. Werfel acknowledged that it would be a "mistake" to ask Congress for more money to address the agency's recently revealed problems. But, he added, the IRS is seeking additional money to enforce tax laws, improve taxpayer services and implement initiatives.

Airlines group raises industry profit estimate

By **JOSHUA FREED**
AP AIRLINES WRITER

Packed planes should help the world's airlines earn \$12.7 billion this year, as travel demand accelerates faster than the airlines add seats, according to a new prediction from a trade group.

The estimate represents a 67 percent increase over the airlines' \$7.6 billion in profits last year. The new estimate is a 20 percent jump over IATA's estimate just three months ago.

IATA said that if its forecast holds, the global airline industry will have its third strongest year since 2001.

The biggest factor is full planes. Airline occupancy will rise to a record 80.3 percent this year, from an estimated 79.2 percent last year, the group said. Passenger traffic will rise 5.3 percent, but the number of seats to carry them will rise just 4.3 percent, the group said. This will be the second year in a row that airlines have added fewer seats than passengers.

Airlines have become increasingly sophisticated about predicting demand for each flight, allowing them to match supply and demand more closely by putting the right-sized plane on each route. U.S. and

European airlines in particular have also become more cautious about adding new planes because of the recession in Europe and uncertainty about the recovery in the U.S.

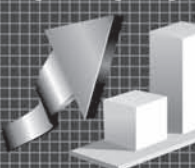
Profits will also be helped by slightly lower oil prices. Jet fuel is one of the biggest expenses for airlines. The group said airlines have been adapting to tough economic conditions by cutting costs and charging for add-ons like food and checked baggage.

Commerce is one of the biggest drivers of airline traffic, and it's booming on routes linked to emerging economies, IATA said, even though trade among developed economies is in the doldrums because of uncertainty in Europe.

"This is a very tough business. The day-to-day challenges of keeping revenues ahead of costs remain monumental," said Tony Tyler, IATA's Director General and CEO. He said most airlines earn about \$4 for every passenger carried.

Profit margins are expected to be 3.4 percent worldwide, the highest level since 2010. The biggest margins are expected for Asia-Pacific airlines at 5 percent, followed by 4.2 percent for airlines in North America, and 1.3 percent for those in Europe.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
15,254.03	1,640.42	3,465.37
138.46	9.68	9.46
+0.92% ↑	+0.59% ↑	+0.27% ↑

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	1.0282	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7635	Philippine Peso	41.8142
	British Pound	0.653	Indian Rupee	56.6507	Singapore Dollar	1.2524s
	Canadian Dollar	1.0295	Indonesian Rupiah	9811.98	South Korean Won	1122.84
	Chinese Yuan	6.1315	Japanese Yen	99.855	Swiss Franc	0.9492
	Euro	0.7657	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0938	Taiwan Dollar	29.908
			New Zealand Dollar	1.2409	Thailand Baht	30.413

Nation

Storm chasing critical, profitable and dangerous

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—While most people take shelter when a tornado approaches, a growing throng heads for the prairies, be they scientists hoping to protect the public from a twister's fury or amateurs armed with little more than a smartphone, a digital camera and a desire to sell 15 seconds of video to the nightly news.

But the deaths of three respected researchers near Oklahoma City have renewed questions over whether the risk of dashing off into violent storms in Tornado Alley is too great—regardless of the adrenaline rush.

"I think there will be some who will step back and say: 'Am I really doing something safe here?'" said Michael Armstrong, a meteorologist for KWTW in Oklahoma City. "I think you'll probably have others ... that just feel that invincibility that they've always felt and they'll keep doing what they're doing and basically look at it as though it was an aberration or an outlier."

Longtime storm chasers Tim Samaras, his son Paul and colleague Carl Young were killed Friday when a powerful tornado near El Reno, Okla., turned on them as they were conducting research. The National Weather Center issued a statement saying they are likely the first "storm



In this May 26, 2006, file photo Tornado chaser Tim Samaras shows the probes he uses when trying to collect data in Ames, Iowa. AP

intercept fatalities" among researchers.

Oklahoma is considered the "mecca of storm chasing," Tim Samaras told National Geographic just last month, and there are often hundreds of storm chas-

ers lining the roads. Seasoned storm trackers provide critical field data that can't be gleaned from high-powered Doppler radar, veteran meteorologists say. But they're increasingly competing with storm-chasing

tours, amateur weather enthusiasts inspired by cable TV shows and tornado paparazzi speeding from storm to storm.

Samaras' colleagues said he took numerous safety precautions, spending hours looking

at weather models and developing safe escape routes and rendezvous points. All were done in case his crew would have to pull away from a tornado and use well-maintained roads that wouldn't turn into "pancake

batter" in rain.

"Storm chasing isn't about what you see on TV. It's about forecasting and safety preparation," said Ben McMillan, a storm chaser from Des Moines, Iowa, who teamed up in 2011 with Samaras and Ed Grubb of Thornton, Colo., for the Discovery Channel show "Storm Chasers."

Samaras also usually drove a three-quarter ton truck with a reinforced lining, Grubb said, but had a smaller truck last week because he was on a three-week research trip focused mostly on lightning.

Many amateur storm chasers are looking to capture heart-pounding video of a massive, dangerous twister and cash in by selling the footage to television stations or documentary filmmakers. TV stations and other news outlets generally pay up to \$500 to use certain video, and storm chasers will reach out to several different ones. Sometimes they're not even after money, but hearing their name read aloud on the air.

Lanny Dean, a 23-year veteran storm chaser from Tulsa, Okla., charges up to \$3,500 to give tourists a 10-day tour during the March through June storm season. He said he's seen the industry change dramatically with the rise of TV programs documenting deadly storms.

Prosecutor: Manning let secrets into enemy hands

FORT MEADE, Md. (AP)—Pfc. Bradley Manning put U.S. military secrets into the hands of Osama bin Laden himself, prosecutors said Monday as the Army intelligence analyst went on trial over leaking hundreds of thousands of classified documents.

Manning's lawyers countered by arguing that he was a "young, naive but good-intentioned" soldier whose struggle to fit in as a gay man in the military made him feel he "needed to do something to make a difference in this world."

Manning, 25, has admitted turning over the material to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks, pleading guilty earlier this year to charges that could bring 20 years behind bars. But the military pressed ahead with a court-martial on more serious charges, including aiding the enemy, which carries a potential life sentence.

Prosecutors said they will present evidence that bin Laden requested and obtained from another al-Qaida member Afghanistan battlefield reports and State Department cables published by WikiLeaks.

"This is a case about a soldier who systematically harvested hundreds of thousands of documents from classified databases and then dumped that informa-

tion onto the Internet into the hands of the enemy," prosecutor Capt. Joe Morrow said.

He said the case is "about what happens when arrogance meets access to sensitive information."

Wearing his dress blue uniform, the slightly built Manning peered through his small eyeglasses at a slide show of the prosecutor's hour-long opening statement, watching on a laptop computer at the defense table. The slide show also was projected on three larger screens in the courtroom, which had seats for only about 50 people.

Later, almost motionless, the soldier from Crescent, Okla., sat forward in his chair, looking toward his defense attorney, David Coombs, throughout his 25-minute opening statement.

Coombs said Manning struggled to do the right thing as "a humanist," a word engraved on his custom-made dog tags. As an analyst in Baghdad, Manning had access to hundreds of millions of documents but selectively leaked material, Coombs said. He mentioned an unclassified video of a 2007 U.S. Apache helicopter attack that mistakenly killed civilians, including a Reuters photographer.

Man hunting for pythons finds mysterious jewelry

MIAMI (AP)—Like most people who signed up for Florida's official Burmese python hunt last winter, Mark Rubinstein slogged a couple times through the Everglades without ever seeing one of the elusive snakes.

Something else caught his eye, though.

In the dirt along a levee, about 10 miles deep into the wetlands, Rubinstein found a gold pendant, with sapphires forming a cross inside a circle of diamonds. One edge of the penny-sized medalion was melted and misshapen.

It may have fallen from the sky. Rubinstein was hunting near the crash sites of two airplanes that went down in the same area: Eastern Flight 401, a New York flight that crashed as it prepared to land in Miami in 1972, and ValuJet Flight 592,



In this Friday, May 31, 2013 photo, Mark Rubinstein holds a gold pendant with sapphires forming a cross inside a circle of diamonds, with one edge melted and misshapen, in the Florida Everglades. AP

a 1996 flight to Atlanta that caught fire shortly after takeoff and plummeted into the remote swamps west of Miami.

Rubinstein hopes to return the jewelry to its rightful owner.

"We've got to get this back to the family, if we can," he

said last week.

All 104 passengers and five crew members aboard the ValuJet flight died. The Eastern flight carried 163 passengers and 13 crew members. Seventy-seven people survived, thanks in part to a Homestead man who was catching frogs from his airboat that night. He pulled survivors onto his airboat and turned his headlamp skyward so rescue helicopters could find the crash.

Invasive pythons have been able to disappear into the Everglades for a reason. Sawgrass gets its name from its sharp edges and can grow tall enough to hide predators and any sign of civilization. The wetlands are best traversed by an airboat, and guides warn tourists that anything dropped into the murk is gone for good.

Police can collect DNA from arrestees, court says

WASHINGTON (AP)—A sharply divided Supreme Court on Monday cleared the way for police to take a DNA swab from anyone they arrest for a serious crime, endorsing a practice now followed by more than half the states as well as the federal government.

The justices differed strikingly on how big a step that was.

"Taking and analyzing a cheek swab of the arrestee DNA is, like fingerprinting and photographing, a legitimate police booking procedure that

is reasonable under the Fourth Amendment," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the court's five-justice majority. The ruling backed a Maryland law allowing DNA swabbing of people arrested for serious crimes.

But the four dissenting justices said the court was allowing a major change in police powers, with conservative Justice Antonin Scalia predicting the limitation to "serious" crimes would not last.

"Make no mistake about it: Because of today's decision,

your DNA can be taken and entered into a national database if you are ever arrested, rightly or wrongly, and for whatever reason," Scalia said in a sharp dissent which he read aloud in the courtroom. "This will solve some extra crimes, to be sure. But so would taking your DNA when you fly on an airplane—surely the TSA must know the 'identity' of the flying public. For that matter, so would taking your children's DNA when they start public school."

Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler agreed that there's nothing stopping his state from expanding DNA collection from those arrested for serious crimes to those arrested for lesser ones like shoplifting.

"I don't advocate expanding the crimes for which you take DNA, but the legal analysis would be the same," Gansler said. "The reason why Maryland chooses to only take DNA of violent criminals is that you're more likely to get a hit on a previous case."

Asia

Fire, locked doors kill 119 at China poultry plant

BEIJING (AP)—A swift-moving fire trapped panicked workers inside a poultry slaughterhouse in northeastern China that had only a single open exit, killing at least 119 people in one of the country's worst industrial disasters in years.

Survivors described workers, mostly women, struggling through smoke and flames to reach doors that turned out to be locked or blocked.

One worker, 39-year-old Guo Yan, said the emergency exit at her workstation could not be opened and she was knocked to the ground in the crush of workers searching for a way to escape the fire Monday.

"I could only crawl desperately forward," Guo was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency. "I worked alongside an old lady and a young girl, but I don't know if they survived or not."

The accident highlights the high human costs of China's lax industrial safety standards, which continue to endanger workers despite recent improvements in the country's work safety record. It also comes amid growing international concern over factory safety across Asia following the collapse in April of a garment factory building in Bangladesh where more than 1,100 people died.

Besides the dead, dozens were injured in the blaze in Jilin province's Mishazi township, which appeared to have been sparked by three early morning explosions, Xinhua said. The provincial fire department attributed the blasts to an ammonia leak. The chemical is kept pressurized as part of the cooling system in meat processing plants.



A victim of a fire at a poultry processing plant receives treatment in Changchun in northeast China's Jilin province's on Monday, June 3, 2013.

It was one of China's worst recent industrial disasters, with the death toll the highest since a September 2008 mining cave-in that claimed 281 lives.

State broadcaster CCTV quoted workers as saying the fire broke out during a shift change when about 350 workers were at the plant, owned by Jilin Baoyuanfeng Poultry Co.

Some employees raised the alarm shortly after the shift began at 6 a.m., and then the lights went out, causing panic as workers scrambled to find an exit, 44-year-old Wang Fengya told Xinhua.

"When I finally ran out and looked back at the plant, I saw high flames," she said.

The fire broke out in a factory building where chickens were being dismembered, and spread rapidly, with industrial boilers exploding, the Southern Metropolis Daily reported on its microblog. Only a side door to the building was open with the rest of the exits locked, the newspaper said.

It quoted an unidentified worker as saying the fire engulfed the building in three minutes, leaving too little time for many to flee.

The disaster killed 119 people and injured a further 70, Xinhua

said Tuesday. Most of the injured were being treated for inhalation of toxic gases, such as ammonia, while others had burns. It wasn't immediately clear if the workers were local residents or migrants from other areas.

A provincial government media official, who refused to give his name, said he expected the death toll to rise as more bodies were recovered from the charred building.

The fire was extinguished by some 500 firefighters and bodies were being recovered from the charred buildings. CCTV footage showed dark smoke billowing from the prefabricated cement structures topped with corrugated iron roofs.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and other top leaders ordered that no effort be spared to rescue and treat survivors, as well as to investigate the cause of the disaster.

It was the third major industrial blaze to be reported in China in the past four days. The two earlier fires were an oil tank explosion in Liaoning province that caused another oil tank to catch fire, killing two, and a blaze in a large granary in Heilongjiang province that wiped out 1,000 tons of grain.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Chinese activists call on people to wear black

BEIJING (AP)—Activists in China are taking to social media to urge the public to wear black on the 24th anniversary of the bloody military crackdown on protesters who had camped out for weeks on Tiananmen Square. The crackdown on pro-democracy protesters on June 4, 1989, killed hundreds, possibly more. The Chinese government has never fully disclosed what happened on that day and branded the protests a "counterrevolutionary riot." It remains a taboo topic inside the country, but the growing use of Twitter-like sites known as Weibo and other social media—although largely censored—has made it difficult for authorities to control all information about the Tiananmen crackdown. Beijing-based rights activist Hu Jia said he had been appealing online for people to wear black T-shirts on Tuesday or light a candle at home on Monday evening to remember the event. "Thanks to the role of Weibo, there are now more people than any other time in the past 24 years that have come to know and think about the incident," he said.

Afghan official: Taliban didn't down cargo plane

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A joint U.S.-Afghan investigation into the crash of a civilian cargo jet in Afghanistan that killed seven Americans has ruled out insurgent involvement, but the exact cause could take up to a year to determine, an Afghan official said Monday. Investigators from U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and the Afghan Civil Aviation Authority spent 12 days in Afghanistan studying the flight recorder from the Dubai-bound Boeing 747-400 that went down soon after takeoff April 29 at Bagram Air Field, north of Kabul. The Taliban quickly claimed responsibility, saying it had shot down the plane, but NATO has consistently rejected that, saying there was no insurgent activity in the area.

3 tigers found dead in a week in India reserve

NEW DELHI (AP)—Forest rangers in a wildlife reserve in northern India are investigating the deaths of three tigers whose carcasses were found over the last week, news reports said Monday. The latest carcass was found Saturday in the sprawling Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh state. Park director Samir Sinha told Press Trust of India that officials were investigating the cause of the tigers' deaths. The carcasses of two other tigers were found in the park earlier last week, leading wildlife officials to suspect that the animals had been poisoned by poachers. But Sinha said that can be confirmed only from autopsy results.

Bomb kills 9 Afghan children, 2 US troops

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber targeting U.S. troops outside an Afghan government office killed nine children walking home from school and two of the Americans on Monday, the latest sign that this year's fighting season could be one of the deadliest of the 12-year-old war.

An increase in casualties among Afghan civilians and security forces reinforces fears that foreign combat forces will

be leaving behind a country in the throes of relentless violence when they withdraw next year.

An Afghan official insisted that despite the escalating carnage, the insurgents have made no advances.

With peace talks apparently dead in the water, the Taliban and other militants have fiercely stepped up attacks in recent weeks, unleashing multiple bombings, sieges of international aid groups'

compounds and armed attacks on police posts nationwide, and testing the ability of Afghan soldiers and police to hold their ground by themselves.

"The level of violence this year is the highest it has been since the war started in 2001," said Thomas Ruttig of the Afghan Analysts Network, who conducted a detailed study of the first two months of the annual Taliban spring offensive. His analysis of attacks over

two months puts the violence on par with 2011, the deadliest year of the war up to now.

Afghan officials say the insurgents have won no new territory or advantage, beyond causing mayhem. But the death toll has soared. In the past two weeks alone, violence has killed 125 Afghan civilians and injured 287, a 24 percent increase in casualties from the same period last year, the United Nations' mission said.

PH probes Cebu Pacific for rough landing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine aviation authorities said Tuesday they were investigating Cebu Pacific pilots and crew who left passengers waiting some 15 minutes before deploying emergency slides on a plane that overshot the runway and landed on its nose.

None of the 165 passengers was injured, but several complained about the slow response. The rough landing in stormy weather Sunday evening forced the closure of the Davao International

Airport in the southern Philippines while the Airbus A320-300 remained stuck on the runway.

Civil Aviation Authority Deputy Director General John Andrews said that the pilots' error probably caused the accident.

"Everyone panicked. Women and children were screaming," Percival Jacones told the Philippine Daily Inquirer. He said that the cabin crew appeared stunned and that it took 15 minutes before the captain came out of the cockpit to address the passengers.

Davao Mayor Sara Duterte said airport management was late in alerting city emergency services about the landing and denied quick access to the passengers. She said that an airport security guard phoned Emergency 911 to report the accident. The aviation authority said that all angles will be investigated.

Cebu Pacific President Lance Gokongwei apologized but also defended the crew's action.

"In this situation we may not have handled all issues perfect-

ly, but we can learn from this experience," Gokongwei told ABS-CBN TV.

The plane had departed Manila. Cebu Pacific is the Philippines' largest low-cost carrier. It operates 33 Airbus planes and eight ATRs, and also flies on regional routes.

A similar accident occurred in 2011, when a Cebu Pacific plane overshot the runway in Puerto Princesa in western Palawan province. There were no casualties.

World

Turkish PM, president at odds over protests

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkish riot police launched round after round of tear gas against protesters on Monday, the fourth day of violent demonstrations, as the president and the prime minister staked competing positions on the unrest.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan rejected the protesters' demands that he resign and dismissed the demonstrations as the work of Turkey's opposition. President Abdullah Gul, for his part, praised the mostly peaceful protesters as expressing their democratic rights.

The two men could face off next year in Turkey's presidential election.

Turkey has been rocked by violent demonstrations since Friday, when police launched a pre-dawn raid against a peaceful sit-in protesting plans to uproot trees in Istanbul's main Taksim Square. Since then, the demonstrations by mostly secular-minded Turks have spiraled into Turkey's biggest anti-government disturbances in years.

Clashes continued late into the night Monday in both Istanbul and Ankara.

In Istanbul, the country's largest city, acrid clouds of tear gas billowed up from the streets of the Besiktas area as protesters ran for cover. Riot police deployed water cannons to keep demonstrators back.

An uneasy calm settled on the city's Taksim Square, which protesters were protecting with makeshift barricades using battered buses, cars and any other material they could find to prevent police from entering the square.

In Ankara, protesters chanted



AP
Protesters raise their hands as they shout slogans during a protest at Taksim Square in Istanbul, Monday, June 3, 2013.

In Washington, the Obama administration voiced concern Monday over Turkey's crackdown on protesters, urging authorities to exercise restraint and all sides to refrain from violence.

Secretary of State John Kerry, who has traveled to Turkey three times since becoming America's top diplomat, said the U.S. was following the situation closely and was troubled by reports of excessive force by the police. He also said Washington is "deeply concerned" by the large number of people who have been injured.

Erdogan, in power since 2003 after winning three elections in landslides, will hit his term limit as prime minister and could run against Gul next year. Erdogan has also advocated a new system that would give the head of state increased powers, leading to criticism that he may be trying to monopolize power.

for Erdogan to resign.

Turkey's main stock exchange dropped 10.5 percent Monday as investors worried about the destabilizing effect of the demonstrations.

The Turkish Doctors' Association said one protester died after a vehicle slammed into a crowd in Istanbul but the governor's office insisted the man's death was accidental. The doctors' group also said eight people hurt in Ankara were in critical condition.

The protests are seen as a display of frustration with Erdogan, whom critics say has become increasingly authoritarian. Many

accuse him of forcing his conservative, religious Islamic outlook on the lives of secular Turks.

Erdogan rejects the accusations, insisting he respects all sections of Turkish society and has no desire to infringe on different lifestyles. He has also rejected accusations of being authoritarian, saying: "I am not a master but a servant" of the people.

But he does believe the protests have a deeply political purpose.

"The protests weren't about the squares or the trees, some parties were not happy about results of the elections," Erdogan said late Monday while on a visit to Morocco. "The situation

is a lot calmer now and reason seems to be prevailing. I think things will return to normal.

These demonstrations are not all over Turkey, just in some big cities."

Wounded and civilians trapped in Syria's Qusair

BEIRUT (AP)—Cut off for three weeks by a regime siege, doctors in the Syrian town of Qusair are treating hundreds of wounded in battle-damaged homes and underground shop storerooms, short on antibiotics and anesthesia and using unsterilized cloth for bandages and hand pumps instead of oxygen canisters.

Amid relentless shelling, there are some 1,000 wounded, at least 300 of them seriously and in need of immediate evacuation, one doctor coordinating medical efforts in the town said Monday. But so far, the forces of President Bashar Assad's regime backed by fighters from Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group are barring any exit as they try to crush rebels and retake the town.

With the Syrian civil war well in its third year, Qusair, near the Lebanese border, has become the latest urban battleground in the grueling fight between Assad's military and the rebels trying to overthrow his regime. The heaviness of the battle reflects the strategic importance of the town, located on supply routes that are vital for both sides.

A doctor and an activist in the shattered town acknowledged Monday that regime forces have tightened their grip in recent days. But they said new reinforcements of hundreds of rebel fighters have managed to infiltrate the siege, in what is likely to prolong the fighting in this town once home to 40,000 people.

Qusair, an agricultural com-

munity once famous for its olive oil, is now a ghost town, said Rifaei Tammam, an activist reached through Skype.

The town's homes, most of them one or two stories, have mostly been damaged or leveled by the fighting. With electricity cut, those able to afford them rely on generators running on smuggled fuel. Old wells have been re-dug, feeding untreated water to the town's residents to substitute for the water plant now seized by regime forces and fighters from Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group who have openly joined the Syrian forces in the battle for this town.

"It is a stifling siege," Tammam said from inside Qusair, adding that most people now survive on one meal a day of grains, bread and olives.

Egypt's long-scorned legislature deepens rift

CAIRO (AP)—When voters went to the polls more than a year ago to vote for Egypt's upper house of parliament, most presumed the legislature would be the powerless talk shop that it had always been for 30 years. Few candidates were known outside their families, parties or neighborhoods. Only seven percent of the electorate bothered to cast a ballot.

Thanks to the twists and turns of the rocky transition that followed Egypt's 2011 uprising, the Shura Council is now the sole law-making body in the land. The legislature found itself in this unexpected position after a court dissolved the lower house of parliament, prompting an Islamist-led panel that drafted the new constitution to include a clause handing the council legislative powers until a new parliament is elected.

Like the lower house before it, the Shura Council now finds its fate in the hands of

the courts. On Sunday, Egypt's constitutional court is expected to rule on the legality of the legislature's election, which was conducted under the same law as the lower house that was disbanded on an electoral technicality.

It's well within the realm of possibility that the court could order the Shura Council to dissolve—and may even render its works invalid, including the country's Islamist-backed constitution, bringing Egypt's political process back to square one. Such a move, while far from certain, would push Egypt into legal limbo and could trigger a new political crisis.

Much of the criticism of the council stems from its shaky popular foundations.

Of the legislature's 270 members, 180 are elected with the other 90 being appointed by the president—a throwback to its days under Hosni Mubarak, the authoritarian leader ousted

in 2011, when the legislature's seats were often sinecures for loyalists or favored members of the opposition. Today, five percent of its members are Christians—about half the proportion of the population—and four percent are women.

When elections were held in early 2012, not only did many voters stay away but so did many political parties—especially several of the newborn liberal groups with smaller budgets. Over 70 percent of the seats were taken by Islamists.

The Freedom and Justice party, the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood's political wing, holds 42 percent of the council's seats. Together with allies like the Wasat party and the ultra-conservative Construction and Development party—the political arm of the former militant Gamaa Islamiya group—the Brotherhood can easily muster nearly 60 percent of the votes to pass favorable bills.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel to send African migrants to third country

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel has reached an agreement to send thousands of African migrants to an unidentified country, according to a court document obtained Monday, a plan that has elicited criticism over its potential harm to the migrants. The plan, if implemented, is an attempt to address one of Israel's more pressing issues: what to do with an influx of roughly 60,000 African migrants who have sneaked into Israel from Egypt over the past eight years. Their arrivals have put Israel in a bind. Many Israelis believe that the Jewish state, founded in part as a refuge for Holocaust survivors after World War II, has a responsibility to help the downtrodden. But others fear that taking in tens of thousands of Africans will threaten the country's Jewish character and question the extent of Israel's moral obligations

beyond those of other nations.

Ill Salvadoran woman denied abortion has C-section

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—A seriously ill woman denied a medical abortion has had a successful cesarean section to deliver a baby that doctors have given little chance of surviving, El Salvador's Health Ministry announced late Monday. The 22-year-old woman, known only as Beatriz for privacy reasons, underwent the operation in the afternoon after 27 weeks of pregnancy, the ministry said. Her baby girl was born without a brain. "No one can say how long she will live," Morena Herrera of the Feminist Collective for Local Development told The Associated Press. "It was painful to see the little creature. That's what the grandmother told us, and the doctors confirmed it."

Focus

Storied nuke plant becomes environmental wasteland

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP)—A stainless steel tank the size of a basketball court lies buried in the sandy soil of southeastern Washington state, an aging remnant of U.S. efforts to win World War II. The tank holds enough radioactive waste to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool. And it is leaking.

For 42 years, tank AY-102 has stored some of the deadliest material at one of the most environmentally contaminated places in the country: the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. This complex along the Columbia River holds a storied place in American history. It was here that workers produced the plutonium for the atomic bomb dropped by the U.S. on Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945—effectively ending the second world war.

Today Hanford's legacy is less about what was made here than the environmental mess left behind—and the federal government's inability, for nearly a quarter-century now, to rid Hanford once and for all of its worst hazard: 56 million gallons of toxic waste cached in aging underground tanks.

Technical problems, mismanagement and repeated delays have plagued the interminable cleanup of the 586-square-mile site, prolonging an effort that has cost taxpayers \$36 billion to date and is estimated will cost \$115 billion more.

Add to that the leaks involving AY-102 and other tanks at the site, and watchdog groups, politicians and others are left wondering: Will Hanford ever really be free of its waste? If not, what will its environmental impact be on important waterways, towns and generations to come?

"One corner of our country and my state acted as a stalwart during World War II and the Cold War and did the right thing," Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said in a recent interview. "We want the federal government to fulfill its obligation to our state."

There is no greater challenge at Hanford today than its underground tank waste. The leaks inside AY-102, a double-walled tank that was supposed to provide more protection against spillage—as well as newer leaks found this year in six other single-walled tanks—show how critical the situation has become.

Put simply: Time is running out on Hanford's deteriorating tanks and, in turn, for completing work on a more permanent solution to store what's in them.

The federal government created Hanford at the height of World War II, moving 50,000 people to sagebrush fields, dotted with small farms, near the Washington-Oregon border for a top-secret construction project. The influx



In this May 6, 2004 file photo, workers use heavy machinery to remove waste in an area near two dormant nuclear reactors on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Wash.

quickly made this area Washington's fourth-largest city, but most workers didn't even know exactly what they were building—the world's first full-scale nuclear reactor—until the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.

In ensuing years, workers built eight more reactors to produce plutonium for the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal. They also built hundreds of ancillary projects, including large canyons where toxic chemicals were used to reprocess the plutonium and extract uranium.

All of this work produced massive amounts of radioactive and toxic waste, as reprocessing of the spent nuclear fuel created byproducts that were far too dangerous for human contact. Workers poured some of that waste directly into trenches in the ground at Hanford, but most of the deadliest waste was stored in 177 underground tanks, grouped into areas known as tank farms.

There isn't much to see at these tank farms. Gravel fields cover the tanks themselves. Exhaust pipes jut out of the ground above each of them. Underground, they hold a bubbling, brewing stew of radionuclides, hazardous chemicals and nitrates. Two radionuclides comprise much of the radioactivity: cesium-137 and strontium-90. Both take hundreds of years to

decay, and exposure to either would increase a person's risk of developing cancer.

The first storage tanks, 149 of them, were built between 1943 and 1964 with just a single, stainless-steel wall. They were designed to last only 10 to 20 years, because they were intended as a stopgap measure until a more permanent solution could be found to deal with the waste. Turns out the tanks were susceptible to corrosion; some even buckled from the extreme heat radiated by the waste.

As early as 1956, workers suspected one tank was leaking. Between 1959 and 1968, the U.S. Energy Department confirmed that 12 tanks were leaking.

Around that time, workers started building 28 double-walled tanks to provide better protection, then began pumping the most dangerous liquid waste out of the leaking tanks into these vessels. By 1995, they had gotten as much of the liquid out as possible, leaving behind sludge the consistency of peanut butter.

AY-102 was the first double-walled tank, put into service in 1971 with an intended lifespan of 40 years. The tank contains chunks of solids—many common metals, including aluminum, nickel, lead, silver, copper, titanium and zinc—as well as other common elements. It

also holds more than a dozen radionuclides, such as plutonium, uranium, strontium and cesium, all of which can cause cancers upon contact. Last fall, at 41 years of age, AY-102 was found to be leaking into the space between its inner and outer shells. So far, no waste has escaped the outer shell to the soil surrounding the tank, and a video review of six other double-shell tanks that began holding waste in the 1970s showed none of them was leaking.

"None of these tanks would be acceptable for use today. They are all beyond their design life, and yet they're holding two-thirds of the nation's high-level nuclear waste," said Tom Carpenter of the watchdog group Hanford Challenge.

There has since been more bad news involving still more tanks.

On Feb. 15, federal officials revealed another single-shell tank was leaking. A week later, the governor said that actually six of the single-walled tanks were leaking. Officials now estimate that those tanks could be releasing as much as 1,000 gallons of waste a year into the soil.

In all, since that very first leak in the 1950s, at least 69 tanks are known to have excreted more than 1 million gallons of waste—and possibly far more—into the soil.

Add to that a concern that

hydrogen gas could build up inside the tanks and possibly cause an explosion that would release radioactive material. The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board recommended additional monitoring and ventilation of the tanks last fall to avoid such a disaster, and federal officials are working to develop a plan to implement the recommendation.

So what does all of this mean for the environment and the safety of nearby communities?

The groundwater at Hanford already is contaminated, but scientists gauge the risks to be minimal because it would take decades for contaminants already in the soil to reach the Columbia River, the largest waterway in the Pacific Northwest. The closest tank sits 5 miles from the river, home to endangered fish and a source of drinking water for some 175,000 people immediately downstream.

"From the standpoint of worrying about an immediate hazard, we're not there," said Ken Niles of the Oregon Department of Energy. "But the problem is that resolving these issues at Hanford takes so long."

The Energy Department previously built a \$230 million plant to treat contaminated groundwater near the tank farms. The agency also is studying how best to handle the leak in AY-102, including whether

to empty the tank immediately into another tank, said Kevin Smith, who heads the Energy Department's Office of River Protection in Richland. Smith acknowledged, however, that the double-shell tanks are nearing capacity.

One problem is knowing exactly what is in each tank. A database listing the contents of each is only a best-guess, relying on historical information about the site and waste samples that are very limited, said Cheryl Whalen of the state Department of Ecology.

Drawing a single sample and analyzing it, which requires exhaustive safety precautions, costs about \$1 million, and it doesn't show everything that's inside, Whalen said. The sample might include liquid, but not the solids floating around inside or the sludge at the bottom.

Whalen also said some elements that are in very small quantities, but could be very hazardous, aren't even recorded. In addition, some of the radionuclides inside produce altogether new elements under the right conditions.

"The tanks create their own chemical environment. Between the heat and the radionuclides and the chemicals that are already in there, they're just their own nuclear reactors," Whalen said. "They're generating their own little world in there."

What officials do know is that the tanks are so thermally and radioactively hot that workers must wear white hazmat suits, often with supplied air tanks, when working nearby. To date a total of 10 single-shell tanks have had their contents emptied into double-walled vessels, and another five tanks are scheduled to be emptied by September 2014.

The permanent solution to eradicating Hanford's waste is a plant being built that would encase the waste in glass-like logs for disposal deep underground. The vitrification plant is among the largest industrial construction projects nationally, both in cost and sheer size. Originally bid at \$4.3 billion, the price tag has since grown to more than \$12.3 billion, a figure that is expected to rise even further.

The Energy Department fired its original contractor in 2000 amid mounting delays and costs. In 2006, construction was suspended for 22 months after an independent review concluded the department underestimated the force of ground movements at the site should a severe earthquake occur. Construction has been put on hold in some areas of the plant while the Energy Department works to resolve problems.

Once targeted for completion in 2011, the plant now won't be operating before 2019.

Campus Life

'Boy or Girl?' Gender a new challenge for schools

By MARTHA IRVINE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—From the time they are born, we put our boys in blue beanies and our girls in pink ones. It's a societal norm, an expectation even, that you just are what you are born—a boy or a girl.

From early on, we divide toys and activities by very distinct gender lines, with superheroes and trucks and muck on one side and princesses and dolls and all things frilly on the other.

Many children land, enthusiastically, on the expected side. Others dabble in both "girl" and "boy" things. But what if your kid, even from an early age, mostly showed interest in doing opposite-gender things? More importantly, what if they wanted to BE the opposite gender—or a less-defined mix of both? And what if they wanted to test those limits in public places, like school?

Would you let them?

It's not, of course, that pat of a process. Parents don't just decide to let their kids switch genders. But, whether parents are dragged through the process, or if they decide to work it through more openly, more kids are challenging the boundaries of traditional gender, and going public at younger ages.

And they are doing so with the guidance of a growing faction of medical experts who no longer see this as something to be fixed. Last year, the American Psychiatric Association removed "gender identity disorder" from its list of mental health ailments.

Some experts predict that views on gender will evolve in much the same way they have for sexual orientation, since homosexuality was removed as a mental illness nearly four decades ago. Today, the gender spectrum includes those who are transgender, who see themselves as the opposite gender, and those who are gender variant, or gender nonconforming, whose gender is more "fluid." For kids, it means they identify part of themselves as boy and part as girl.

"Now these kids are beginning to have a voice and I think that's what's been making things interesting and challenging—and difficult, sometimes—depending on the family, the kid, or the school," says Dr. Robert Garofalo, director of the Center for Gender, Sexuality and HIV Prevention at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

While the numbers are relatively small, it means that, increasingly, schools are having to figure out how to accommodate them, some more successfully than others.



Ryan, a "gender variant" fourth grader, sits at her desk in her school in Illinois on May 2, 2013. Ryan outwardly lives life as a girl but is physically still a boy underneath. "I feel that I'm a girl in my heart and a boy in my brain," the 10-year-old says.

The questions often start with the basics: Which bathroom do they use? Where do they change for gym class? What if teachers or students don't want to use the pronoun, "he" or "she," or a new name the student prefers?

It can be difficult, and uncomfortable. In Colorado, for instance, the parents of a 6-year-old transgender girl are suing their school district for trying to make her use a separate bathroom.

The center at Lurie opened recently, in part, to meet the demand from parents seeking guidance for children who are questioning their gender identity and to provide support to older transgender youth who sometimes struggle more in adolescence, even facing a greater suicide risk, especially if they have no backing from family and others around them.

The center also serves as a resource for schools with transgender and gender variant students.

Increasingly, those students are making the transition as early as elementary school, if not before.

■■■

Ryan, a fourth-grader in suburban Chicago, is one of those kids.

Most people, upon seeing her big blue eyes, long lashes and flowing blond hair, would never know she's anything but a girl. But underneath, she is still physically a boy.

Doctors call that gender variant, though Ryan prefers to call herself a "tomgirl."

"I feel that I'm a girl in my heart," she says, "and a boy in my brain."

Her parents allowed her to be interviewed and also agreed to speak to The Associated Press on the condition that the family's last name, the name of the

town where they live and the school Ryan attends not be used in the story.

Though the decision to publicly express publicly as a girl happened at the end of kindergarten, Ryan had slowly been becoming "she" at home for a long time, even when she still had a crew cut.

Six months after her second birthday, her parents say Ryan was drawn to all things pink and sparkly. Ryan, the boy, wore pajama pants on his head, pretending it was long hair, or acted out girl roles from movies.

"I'm wishing for the one I love to find me!" the preschooler would enthusiastically sing into the toilet, copying Snow White, who sings into the echoing wishing well in the animated Disney movie.

By kindergarten, Ryan would bolt through the door of the family's suburban Chicago home, leaving a trail of boy clothes up the stairway—then quickly changing into a skirt and matching T-shirt.

Ryan's parents, initially told that Ryan had gender identity disorder, tried to get their child more interested in traditional boy things. But Ryan preferred chasing butterflies instead of footballs. Her dad scheduled extra "father-son" time, thinking that might have an influence. But nothing changed.

"The next step was to eliminate all girl things—can't write about girl things, can't draw girl things, can't talk about girly things... and that just didn't feel right," says Sabrina, Ryan's mom.

They decided to stop resisting and allowed Ryan to start taking small steps into the outside

world, at a nearby park, for instance, where she wore her girl clothes.

For her kindergarten Halloween party, Ryan dressed as a princess and, shortly after, asked her parents to refer to her as "she," a request to which they agreed, though it took a few months to adjust.

Their first support came from a pediatrician who specialized in gender, as well as other parents with children like Ryan,

many whom they met through an online registry. They are, as they call themselves, "affirming parents."

"There's a realization that it's not a phase or something that's ending when the preschooler gets to kindergarten," says Kevin Gogin, the program manager for school health programs at the San Francisco Unified School District, which recently added a transgender category in student health surveys. The survey found that 1.6 percent of high school students and 1 percent of middle school students identified as transgender or gender variant. Elementary students weren't in the survey, but Gogin says the district has seen more young transgender and gender variant students, too.

Sixteen states and the District of Columbia have transgender rights laws, according to Michael Silverman, the executive director of the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York City. He is representing the family of Coy Mathis, the 6-year-old transgender girl in Colorado.

But even in states that don't have laws, he says districts are often open to guidance.

"By and large, most educators want to do the right thing and want to know how to treat all of their children equally," Silverman says. But often, they don't know how.

In California, which has had protections for transgender people for some time, a new law requires schools to provide transgender and gender variant students with "equal and full access to programs and facilities," such as gender-neutral bathrooms, if need be, and private changing areas for gym and sports.

There can be resistance, of course—even in families and friends, as Ryan's parents discovered.

Neighbors in the Chicago suburb where the family lived when Ryan was born stopped asking about or acknowledging her when she started dressing in girl clothes. "It was as if she no longer existed," Sabrina recalls.

Early on, people in their own extended family also struggled with their decision to let Ryan live outwardly as a girl. Some said: "I think what you're doing is wrong" or "Ryan's too young to know."

Cousins made fun of her, too, and once shut her in a dryer to taunt her.

Sabrina and husband Chris sat their family members down to talk and, over time, they say they came to an understanding.

"Our commitment is that our children are in an accepting, loving environment—and if someone's not on board with that, then they're not going to be around," Chris says, calmly but firmly.

They also moved to a neighboring suburb, where some said a particular elementary school would be more open to Ryan.

They still fear a harsh reaction from people outside their community. But they say most people locally have been accepting.

And she notes how well the staff at Ryan's school has handled things. She remembers meeting with the principal and teachers at the end of Ryan's kindergarten year. She told them that Ryan would likely enter first grade as a girl, then came home to find that Ryan was ready to make the transition—right then.

"I don't want to do this anymore," Ryan told her parents, referring to what she now calls the "revolving door" of changing her appearance from boy at school to girl at home.

Her mom alerted the school. "You know how we spoke about, that it might happen next year?" she said. "Well, it's happening tomorrow."

They were ready, and allowed Sabrina to explain things to Ryan's classmates—that Ryan

liked to dress in girl clothes and liked girl things.

One of Ryan's friends also stood up: "I want everyone to know this is Ryan's first day as a girl, and everyone better be nice."

One boy talked about how he'd once worn his sister's shirt when his own got wet. A girl said she'd worn her brother's boots. And then the kindergarteners moved on, Sabrina says.

Of course, how a school staff and a community react still varies widely from place to place. But overall, attitudes about differences in gender identity have been changing, even in the last decade, says Eli Erlick, a transgender student and graduating high school senior in Willits, Calif., a small town in the northern part of the state.

When Erlick began her transition from boy to girl at age 8, she says that even she didn't know what the word "transgender" meant. She just knew that she wanted to live life as a girl. "I thought I was the only person like this," she says.

School was difficult. Some teachers made fun of her in front of the class, she says. To avoid dealing with which bathroom to use, she would pretend to be sick, so she could go home and use the facilities there.

Now Erlick is the director of an organization called Trans Student Equality Resources, which provides schools with training and information about students like her. Erlick also has helped her school district and others in California develop transgender policies.

Some schools in other states are doing the same.

"There is definitely more awareness," says Kristyn Westphal, vice principal at Grant High School in Portland, Ore.

There, they've established a student support team to determine how well the school is meeting the needs of transgender and other students. Earlier this year, the school also created individual gender-neutral bathrooms that any student can use.

Bathrooms often become a focal point because, when children are young, the transition is often more "social," a change in clothing and hairstyle.

As some kids move into puberty, they might use hormone blockers and, eventually, start hormone therapy to help their bodies transform from male to female, or vice versa. But any kind of surgery, experts say, is still relatively rare, even in adolescence.

Ryan's parents will consider these options later. But for now, Ryan sees no reason to choose one gender over the other—at least until I get married or something," she says. So she uses a separate bathroom at school, as

See BOY on Next Page

Life & Style

Scott Weiland sues over Stone Temple Pilots ouster

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scott Weiland has countersued his former band mates in Stone Temple Pilots claiming they had no right to expel him and shouldn't be allowed to perform with a new lead singer.

Weiland's suit was filed Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court, one week after his former

collaborators sued to get him to stop using the band's music in solo performances.

The singer's case claims the three other members of Stone Temple Pilots had no right to oust him from the band and are damaging his solo career. He is seeking more than \$5 million in damages, although any award

would have to be determined by a judge or jury.

The lawsuits are the latest development in the band's public breakup. Weiland was ousted from the group in February and said he learned of the decision when it was reported in the media.

"How do you expel a man from a band that he started, named, sang lead on every song, wrote the lyrics, and was the face of for 20 years, and then try to grab the name and goodwill for yourselves," Weiland's complaint states. "You don't, but three of the instrumentalists from the band Stone Temple Pilots tried."

Skip Miller, an attorney for the remaining band members, said the band had every right to fire Weiland. "He's dead wrong and he knows it," Miller said. "The band had no choice."

The group has performed with new frontman Chester Bennington and Miller said it is moving on without Weiland.

The band claims Weiland isn't entitled to call himself a former member of the group and was using its songs without proper permission. They cited him being late to concerts and poor performances as some of the reasons for his ouster.

The band's hits include "Va-



This Nov. 4, 2011 file photo originally released by Sony PlayStation shows Scott Weiland performing with Stone Temple Pilots during the Gran Turismo Awards in Las Vegas.

By JEFF AYERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

"If You Were Here: a Novel of Suspense" (Harper), by Alafair Burke

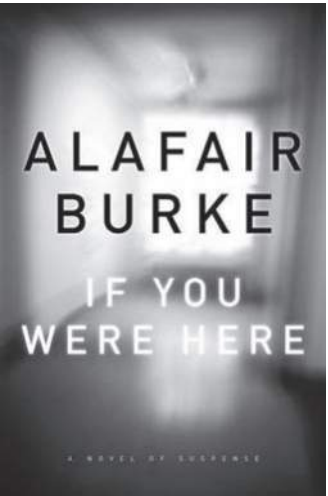
Alafair Burke has written another puzzling and captivating tale with her latest novel, "If You Were Here."

McKenna Wright, a writer for New York City magazine, is investigating a corrupt judge when she hears of a woman rescuing a teen who had fallen onto subway tracks. After the woman pulled him to safety, she ran away. Cameras in the area malfunctioned, and the only video Wright sees is from a shaky cellphone.

Watching the blurry images, McKenna believes the woman is her friend Susan Hauptmann. However, that would be impossible, because Susan disappeared 10 years ago.

The more McKenna looks into what happened, the more she appears to be thwarted. The cellphone video vanishes, and the article she was writing about the judge blows up in her face. Her husband doesn't believe her. Neither do the police. With nowhere to go, McKenna decides the answers are 10 years in the past.

What she finds will not be



This book cover image released by Harper shows "If You Were Here," by Alafair Burke.

pleasant.

Alafair Burke excels in writing compelling character-driven stories mixed with baffling mysteries. It's difficult at times to understand why Susan was McKenna's best friend and how their friendship endured under such bizarre circumstances, but that's a minor quibble. The questions raised—such as how the individual matters in the overall grand scheme of things and how one person can influence many lives—will have introspective readers looking in the mirror while they try to solve the mystery.

BOY

From Page 18

the principal has arranged with her parents.

A separate bathroom was not, however, a workable solution for the parents of Coy Mathis, who are suing their school district in Fountain, Colo. Kathryn Mathis, Coy's mother, says it's about more than that.

"If it were just a toilet, then just having the gender-neutral option would be fine. But it's really about being accepted," Mathis says.

"What's happening now—they will call you a girl but you're not really a girl, so you don't get to act like one. And that's incredibly damaging."

The school district has declined to comment on an ongoing case.

Mathis says she's heard from several parents who've made the decision for their transgender children to go "stealth." In other words, they make the transition - from boy to girl or girl

to boy—and then move, so no one knows.

"That's how they're doing it ... because there aren't laws to protect them," Mathis says.

Even in Ryan's case, the initial transition at school wasn't always smooth.

While her own younger classmates were accepting, older kids called her "gay" and a "fag." Early on, a few followed Ryan around on the playground. "Are you a boy or a girl?" they'd ask repeatedly.

Her parents had prepared her for this type of reaction as best they could. Ryan, who her parents say is a strong-willed, independent kid, was mostly just annoyed. Still, she was relieved when her principal quickly stepped in to enforce the school's anti-bullying policy.

One mother also recalls how, early on, a few other parents worried about their boys being around Ryan—that it might cause them to be confused about their own gender. But that talk eventually dissipated, she says.

In Celebration of Her New Life

† Shirley Saimon Bermudes

July 24, 1953 – May 30, 2013

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:

Husband: †Herman Reyes Bermudes

Parents: †James Saimon
†Esther Defang Saimon

Parents-in-law: †Jose Deleon Guerrero Bermudes
†Angelica Reyes Bermudes

Brother and Sisters: †Stephan Saimon, †Josephine Saimon Tagabuel,
†Mercy Saimon Milia

Grandson: †Joseph J.R. B. Aldan

Reared Mother: †Rufina D. Palacios

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Daughter, Son-in-law & Grandchildren:
Patricia Bermudes/Joseph Aldan (Angela B. Aldan [Santiago Tenorio]; Austin B. Aldan; Herman Jr. B. Aldan; Antonia Aliyana B. Aldan; Keliana Joisha B. Aldan; Vicente Cruz Aldan II)

Daughter at heart/Caretaker: Sampekita Saimon

Son at heart: Joseph Fital

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws: Kachusa S./ †Lasaro Maipi & Family, Karmen S./Lukas Likiche & Family, James/Maria Pas Saimon & Family, Ana Saimon

Mariano R. Bermudes & Family, Helen B./Wayne Smith & Family, Jose R. Bermudes & Family, Clara W. Saimon & Family, Vicente Tagabuel & Family, Stanlis Milia & Family

Reared Father: Francisco M. Palacios (Tan Ko')

Reared Brothers, Sisters: Frank D. Palacios, Benjamin D. Palacios, Raymond D. Palacios, John Diego D. Palacios, Michael D. Palacios, Darlene P. Sablan, Mayanne P. Reyes, Jacinta D. Palacios, Fatima P. Cabrera, Terry M. Baring, Frances D. Palacios, Bernie D. Palacios, Rita D. Palacios & Pauline D. Palacios.

Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated each evening at 06:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, June 08, 2013. Her remains will be escorted at 08:30 a.m. from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to San Vicente Church. Responso Services will be at 09:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 09:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at San Vicente Church at 11:30 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

Patricia Bermudes & Joseph Aldan, Children & Family

Does 'After Earth' end reign of Mr. Box Office?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It used to be that if a summer flick starred Will Smith, it was a guaranteed money-maker: First place at the box office, maybe a franchise in the making.

But the 44-year-old actor's latest film opened with a thud.

"After Earth," a futuristic action-adventure co-starring Smith's 14-year-old son, Jaden, debuted in third place, collecting a disappointing \$27.5 million over the weekend.

"It's tough because we're very proud of the film," said Sony's president of worldwide distribution, Rory Bruer.

Box-office analysts had predicted the sci-fi tale that cost an estimated \$130 million to make would open just behind the international street-racing romp "Fast & Furious 6," which held onto the top spot with \$35.2 million after its huge debut last week. Instead, second place went to Lionsgate and Summit Entertainment's "Now You See Me," which exceeded expectations with \$29.25 million. The magic-heist thriller's ensemble cast includes Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine, Woody Harrelson and Mark Ruffalo.

"When you're a Tom Cruise or Will Smith, there are huge expectations placed on a movie that are not placed on an ensemble," said Paul Dergarabedian of box-

office tracker Hollywood.com. "It just shows you how competitive the summer marketplace is and star power isn't necessarily what gets you there."

Based on a story by Smith, "After Earth" follows a father and son stranded on an abandoned Earth after a crash landing.

Dad is injured, so the son must overcome his fear and brave the planet's dangerous creatures and conditions to get help.

The film was deemed "rotten" by review aggregator RottenTomatoes.com, with only 12 percent of critics offering praise.

"Quite simply, this is one of

the worst films of 2013," Richard Roeper wrote in the Chicago Sun-Times.

The poor reception by critics and fans also hurts director M. Night Shyamalan, whose last several films flopped. Sony spokesman Jeff Blake called the director "a world-class filmmaker" in a recent statement, but Shyamalan was notably absent from "After Earth" marketing and promotions.

"Shyamalan is clearly a director-for-hire here," Scott Foundas wrote in Variety, "his disinterest palpable from first frame to last."

Sony's president of distribution said the studio still has high hopes for the film internationally as it expands to 60 more countries Friday. Said Bruer: "We're still feeling confident that as the film plays out throughout the world, we're going to be absolutely fine."

Meanwhile, "Fast & Furious 6" continues to speed past its competitors. With settings around the globe and an international cast led by Vin Diesel, Paul Walker and Dwayne Johnson, along with the international language of fast cars, the film has broad appeal for viewers young and old.

"It's playing like what we call a four-quadrant movie, even though on paper it looks like a PG-13, testosterone-driven racing movie," Dergarabedian said. "It's just a wild and fun ride at

the movie theater, and that's what people want when they go to the movies in the summer." "Fast" could enjoy a third

week on top as the newest action offering among Friday's openers "The Internship" and "The Purge."

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com, are:

1. **"Fast & Furious 6,"** Universal, \$35,164,440, 3,686 locations, \$9,540 average, \$171,003,965, two weeks.
2. **"Now You See Me,"** Lionsgate/Summit Entertainment, \$29,254,674, 2,925 locations, \$10,002 average, \$29,254,674, one week.
3. **"After Earth,"** Sony/Columbia, \$27,520,040, 3,401 locations, \$8,092 average, \$27,520,040, one week.
4. **"Star Trek: Into Darkness,"** Paramount, \$16,780,895, 3,585 locations, \$4,681 average, \$181,537,381, three weeks.
5. **"Epic,"** Fox, \$16,616,310, 3,894 locations, \$4,267 average, \$65,377,491, two weeks.
6. **"The Hangover Part III,"** Warner Bros., \$16,385,254, 3,565 locations, \$4,596 average, \$88,540,908, two weeks.
7. **"Iron Man 3,"** Disney, \$8,442,451, 2,895 locations, \$2,916 average, \$385,187,736, five weeks.
8. **"The Great Gatsby,"** Warner Bros., \$6,517,317, 2,635 locations, \$2,473 average, \$128,508,209, four weeks.
9. **"Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani,"** Eros Int'l, \$1,568,677, 161 locations, \$9,743 average, \$1,568,677, one week.
10. **"Mud,"** Roadside Attractions, \$1,209,355, 581 locations, \$2,082 average, \$16,849,451, six weeks.
11. **"The Croods,"** Fox, \$665,624, 506 locations, \$1,315 average, \$180,588,685, 11 weeks.
12. **"Frances Ha,"** IFC, \$530,493, 132 locations, \$4,019 average, \$1,556,325, three weeks.
13. **"42,"** Warner Bros., \$512,231, 501 locations, \$1,022 average, \$92,331,685, eight weeks.
14. **"Oz the Great and Powerful,"** Disney, \$419,116, 330 locations, \$1,270 average, \$233,032,311, 13 weeks.
15. **"Before Midnight,"** Sony Pictures Classics, \$404,311, 31 locations, \$13,042 average, \$774,083, two weeks.
16. **"Oblivion,"** Universal, \$394,705, 357 locations, \$1,106 average, \$88,067,670, seven weeks.
17. **"G.I. Joe: Retaliation,"** Paramount, \$276,841, 286 locations, \$968 average, \$121,588,603, 10 weeks.
18. **"Escape From Planet Earth,"** Weinstein Co., \$195,323, 268 locations, \$729 average, \$56,322,427, 16 weeks.
19. **"What Maisie Knew,"** Millennium Entertainment, \$191,169, 101 locations, \$1,893 average, \$528,635, five weeks.
20. **"Love Is All You Need,"** Sony Pictures Classics, \$167,820, 71 locations, \$2,364 average, \$706,332, five weeks.

Beckham tours Miami stadiums; city hopes for team

MIAMI (AP)—Soccer star David Beckham may be setting his sights on a new sports venture: a professional soccer team in Miami.

The newly retired Beckham toured Sun Life and Florida International University stadiums and met with Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez on Saturday.

"We're ready and we're excited about the possibility of having top-flight professional soccer back in Miami," Gimenez said. "With people from all over the world living in our community, this is an ideal market for MLS and David Beckham is the right person to make it happen."

Miami has had a Major League Soccer team before; the Miami Fusion held matches in Fort Lauderdale from 1998 to 2001, before shutting down because of poor attendance.

This time around, city officials hope a team would succeed.

"The whole community loves soccer down here," FIU Executive Director for Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia said.

Garcia said university officials delivered a presentation to Beckham and Marcelo Claure, president and CEO of Brightstar



In this undated photo released by Miami-Dade County, former soccer star David Beckham poses for a photo with Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, in Miami.

Corp. and a member of the FIU Board of Trustees, explaining the draw of a professional team in Miami. He said FIU officials hope Beckham and Claure will start an MLS team and choose FIU as their stadium.

"Our stadium is state of the art, brand new, and it's made for soccer," Garcia said.

He also noted that a majority of the university's 52,000 students are Hispanic, and many of

them avid soccer fans.

"I know it would be successful now," he said.

Beckham started his career with Manchester United and also played for Real Madrid, Los Angeles Galaxy, AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain. He became a global superstar not only in the sports world, but also through fashion and his marriage to a pop star wife, former "Spice Girls" singer Victoria.

Fashion world applauds de la Renta—and Clinton

NEW YORK (AP)—The crowd cheered fashion's top talent at the Council of Fashion Designers of America awards, but the most love in the room seemed to go to Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Clinton received a standing ovation at Monday night's ceremony at Lincoln Center before she presented the CFDA's highest honor, its Founder's Award, to Oscar de la Renta, whom she called "a dear friend."

Then, de la Renta said he thought she could be the next U.S. president, and there was enthusiastic applause.

Clinton recalled first meeting de la Renta as first lady in 1993. The designer approached her in a White House receiving

line and said "that's one of my dresses."

The big competitive CFDA winners were Proenza Schou-

ler (proo-EHN'-zah SKOOL'-ur) for womenswear, Thom Browne for menswear and Phillip Lim for accessories.



Designer Oscar de la Renta, right, speaks on stage next to former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton during the 2013 CFDA Fashion Awards at Alice Tully Hall on Monday, June 3, 2013 in New York.

Prince Philip unwell, misses palace reception

LONDON (AP)—Royal officials say Britain's Prince Philip has missed a gala reception at the last minute because he has fallen ill.

Buckingham Palace officials say Philip was "unwell," but added that he will attend a service on Tuesday to mark Queen Elizabeth

II's 60 years on the throne.

Officials did not elaborate on Philip's health problem. The 91-year-old royal was due to join the queen at a reception at St. James's Palace Monday evening that featured performances by opera group Il Divo.

Tuesday's service at West-

minster Abbey is expected to draw some 2,000 guests to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the queen's coronation.

Philip's health was in the public spotlight last summer when he spent almost a week in the hospital after a recurrence of a bladder infection.

Discovery to air special honoring 3 storm chasers



This undated photo provided by The Discovery Channel shows Carl Young, left, and Tim Samaras watching the sky. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Discovery Channel says it will honor three veteran storm chasers who died in Oklahoma with a special airing this week.

The program, “Mile Wide Tornado: Stormchasers Trib-

ute,” will feature scenes of Tim Samaras, his son Paul and Carl Young from the former series “Stormchasers.” It airs at 10 p.m. EDT Wednesday.

The men spent years capturing and sharing storm videos

with TV viewers and weather researchers. They died Friday when a tornado with winds of up to 165 mph turned on them in the Oklahoma City area. The storm and flooding claimed more than a dozen other lives.

“Mile Wide Tornado” originally aired Sunday and focuses on the May 20 tornado that devastated a wide swatch of Oklahoma. Discovery says it has been updated with “Stormchasers” footage of the researchers.

Matt Damon leads stars in Public Theater forum

NEW YORK (AP)—An all-star line-up including Matt Damon, Alan Alda and Vanessa Redgrave will be featured in a night of readings and a town hall discussion hosted by The Public Theater.

The June 17 event at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park will also feature Christine Baranski, Gloria Reuben, Raul Esparza, Hamish Linklater, Jes-



Damon

se L. Martin, Lily Rabe and Marsha Stephanie Blake. The celebrities will read from Shakespeare on money and justice while Harvard pro-

fessor Michael Sandel leads a conversation about the rise of the language of money, the subject of his new book, “What Money Can’t Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets.”

Tickets to the free forum will be distributed, two per person, at noon on June 17 at the Delacorte Theater and there will be a drawing at the www.shakespeareinthepark.org site.

Jennifer Lopez goes off-camera for new TV drama



This undated image released by ABC Family shows, from row from left, Maia Mitchell, executive producer Jennifer Lopez, Cierra Ramirez, from back left, David Lambert and Jake T. Austin from “The Fosters,” premiering June 3 on ABC Family. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jennifer Lopez isn’t on screen for the debut of her new TV series, but she will be on Twitter.

Lopez is an executive producer of ABC Family’s drama “The Fosters,” which debuts at 9 p.m. EDT Monday. The channel says the actress and singer will be live-tweeting from her (at)JLo account during the episode.

“The Fosters” is about a lesbian couple who are parents to

a brood that includes adopted twins and a foster child. The cast includes Teri Polo of the “Meet the Parents” movie franchise.

Lopez says the drama reflects the changing nature of families today. She says she may appear on the show or provide music for it in later episodes.

“The Fosters” was created by actor Peter Paige of Showtime’s “Queer as Folk” and Bradley Bredeweg.

Son experiencing puberty needs a word to the wise

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I’m a single mother of two amazing boys, 16 and 12. While my older son has been private about coming into puberty, my younger son is very open about it, and we have had many conversations about it. Abby, I’ll be honest. The subject makes me uncomfortable.

Last night I walked into my 12-year-old’s room and interrupted him pleasuring himself. I was shocked, and I started to laugh because I was embarrassed. I did tell him he needed to be more private about his curiosity, to close the door and have a blanket over himself. But I was laughing when I was talking to him and literally could not stop.

I’m unsure what is the right course of action at this point. Where do I go from here?

EMBARRASSED MOM

DEAR EMBARRASSED: Masturbation is natural. Every healthy, normal person has done it. It is not depraved, a crime or harmful to one’s health.

Your son is now at an age when it is appropriate for Mom to knock before entering his room out of respect for his privacy. So: Apologize to your son for laughing. Explain that it was because you were embarrassed.

If your children’s father is in the picture (or another male relative), a man-to-man talk about this could be helpful. If there isn’t one, consult your sons’ pediatrician for suggestions on how to discuss sexuality with both of your boys. If you haven’t already done so, the time has arrived.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My brother, three sisters and their husbands and children and I go to our parents’ house for holiday dinners. My youngest sister’s husband refuses to go because he doesn’t get along with our family. (He also does not get along with his own family.)

Before my youngest sister leaves, she insists on taking a plate of food home for her husband who was “unable to be there.” I feel if he doesn’t want to be with our family, he shouldn’t be allowed to have takeout. Our mother is 82, and it upsets her that he doesn’t want to be there. What do you think?

RESENTFUL

DEAR RESENTFUL: If your brother-in-law can’t get along with the family, he is doing everyone a favor by not attending those family dinners. Because your mother finds his absence upsetting, it is up to her to put her foot down and tell your sister she doesn’t want food taken to him. Until she does, food deliveries will continue.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I, too, am disgusted with people who answer their cellphones wherever and whenever.

I was at a funeral last week where this twit answered her cellphone while viewing the deceased in his casket. She was literally kneeling beside the casket when her phone rang, and she carried on a conversation with the caller for a full three minutes. I timed it!

I know some people may think this is funny or no big deal. I suggest that those who feel that way should learn manners. Unless you’re a doctor or some other emergency caretaker, there is no reason to take a call while in the company of others.

MICHAEL IN ROCHESTER, N.Y.

DEAR MICHAEL: I agree. When attending a funeral or a memorial, cellphones should be **TURNED OFF** out of respect not only for the deceased, but for the others around you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Sharon Jones diagnosed with cancer, cancels album

NEW YORK (AP)—Soul singer Sharon Jones has cancer and has canceled plans for an album and tour in 2013.

A Monday news release says Jones has stage-one bile duct cancer and needs immediate surgery.

Jones and her band, the Dap-Kings, had planned to release “Give the People What They Want” on Aug. 6 and were al-

ready touring. The singer was forced to miss a few shows recently while looking for a cause of her illness.

The release says that doctors caught the tumor early and that the cancer hasn’t spread. They expect the 57-year-old to make a full recovery.

Jones says she’ll stay in touch with fans and keep them updated on her condition.



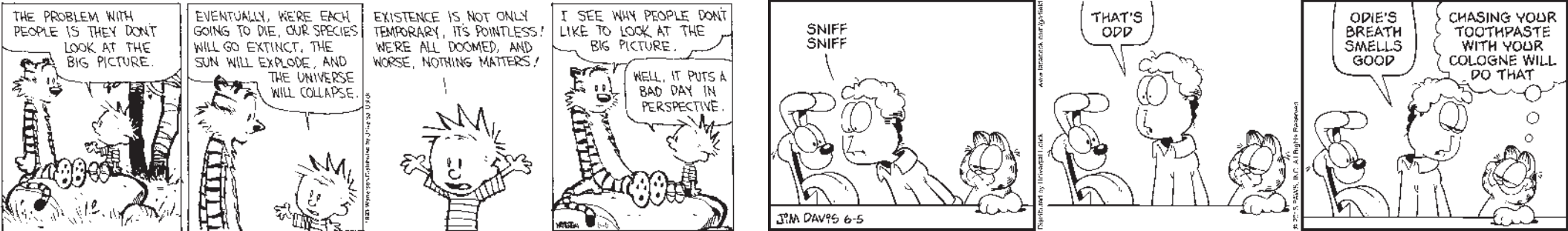
This June 8, 2012 file photo shows soul singer Sharon Jones of Sharon Jones and The Dap-Kings performing during the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn. AP

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

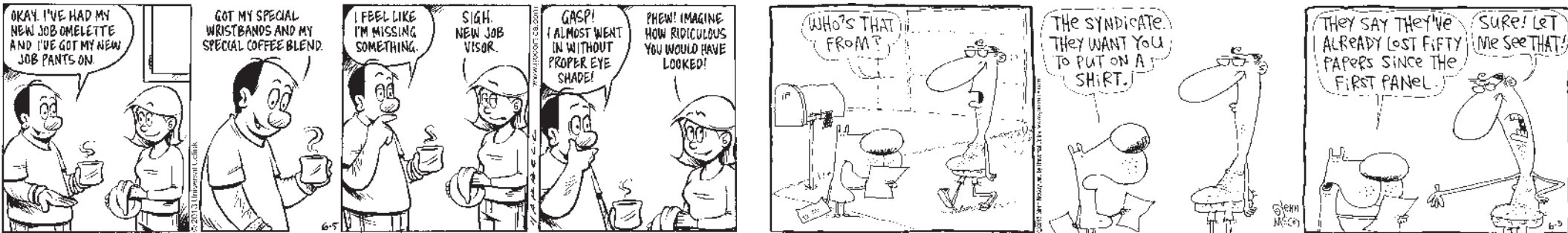
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Autumn mo.

4 "Breckinridge"

8 Drag along

12 That girl

13 Quite some time

14 Shrek is one

15 Remiss

16 Flattery

18 Eye-related

20 Marry

21 Hen pen

24 Famous

28 Flowering vine

32 Clinton veep

33 Standard

34 Billow

36 Watch chain

37 Sister of Osiris

39 Grump

41 Eighth Greek letter

43 Rip

44 Historic period

46 Healthy

50 Dairy item

55 Aye

56 Heap

57 Carte

58 Conk out

59 Choir member

60 Vail gear

61 On in years

DOWN

1 Norway's capital

2 Fellow

3 Libretto

4 Team animals?

5 Evergreen type

6 Caviar, really

7 From the start

8 Frank

9 — Khan

10 Web address

11 Albanian money

17 Coffee break

19 Lemieux milieu

22 Piece of work

23 1992 presidential candidate

25 Bean curd

26 Cupid's alias

27 Society newbies

28 Skewer

29 Launder

30 One of HOMES

31 Chills and fever

35 Dutch Renaissance scholar

38 Audio-ophile's setup

40 Expert

42 Joan of —

45 Weaponry

47 Loosen

48 Catch red-handed

49 Changed the color

50 Hot tub

51 Painter's medium

52 Last (Abbr.)

53 "A mouse!"

54 Blackbird

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike Fisher, 33; Mark Wahlberg, 42; Ron Livingston, 46; Jeff Garlin, 51

Happy Birthday: Share your knowledge and offer whatever assistance you can to others. Taking a compassionate, understanding approach to whatever you face will result in additional support and the connections you need to accomplish whatever goal you set. Don't sit back or ignore what's going on around you. Take charge, be a leader and make a difference. Your numbers are 7, 12, 25, 33, 40, 45, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do whatever you enjoy doing most. Don't make a decision that will have a lasting effect or impact on others; instead opt to put it off until you feel comfortable moving forward. A personal problem or miscommunication is apparent. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll have lots to consider when it comes to dealing with old friends or colleagues. Getting in touch with someone from your past can help you move forward personally or professionally. Let your imagination lead the way. Love is highlighted. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Participate in functions that allow you to make new connections. An opportunity to move assets around or invest in something innovative should be initiated. Someone from your past will have a hot tip. Favors and proposals are apparent. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Volunteer or participate in a fundraiser or get involved in your community. Opportunities will develop from the connections you make.

Don't make snap judgments or dismiss what someone has to offer. Love and romance are in the stars. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Offer help and you will be appreciated. Finding a solution will give you the upper hand. Think about your professional position and what you can do to make life less stressful. Don't let your emotions cost you financially. Show strength, not vulnerability. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let confusion stand in your way. Ask questions until you have a clear view of what's required. Take a short trip if it will help you solve a problem or persuade someone to see things your way. Love is highlighted. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Learning something new will help you advance in your chosen field. Actions speak louder than words, so say less and do more if you want to impress someone. A challenge will bring about a personal change and improve your confidence and friendships. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Conversations will bring greater clarity to a money-making deal or investment. Listen carefully and make your own assessment of the situation. Making a couple of creative alterations will enhance your chance to excel. Personal changes will help you secure an important position. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Face facts and say what's on your mind. Once you make it clear what you like and don't like, you will be able to continue down a path that suits you better. A simple change can make a difference to your future. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Talk about the way you feel and how you see partnerships and your personal life moving forward. Focus on what counts and being with people you love. Network with influential people and you will make a lasting impression. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Socialize, mingle and share your thoughts. Exploring new venues and pastimes will result in new opportunities that can change the way you do things in the future. A change in the way you present your skills will pay off. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Contemplate your next move and make behind-the-scenes plans, but don't upset what's already working in your favor. Problems with someone who is counting on you will develop if you make unexpected changes that have not been well thought-out. ****

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

6/05

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	7	6	1	9	2	4	3
9	3	2	8	5	4	6	1	7
6	1	4	7	2	3	9	5	8
4	9	1	5	7	2	8	3	6
5	6	8	3	9	1	7	2	4
7	2	3	4	6	8	5	9	1
3	8	9	2	4	7	1	6	5
2	7	5	1	3	6	4	8	9
1	4	6	9	8	5	3	7	2

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

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O I R H M S N I L I E U L A V
N L B O G I T E F C G K U R A
T E R C O I N E C A A H C E S
I S E C O B N A E E C S T I S
N S C N D P V S T L N T H E N
U T Y I B D P E W I C T S G R
E S C Z Y T S E R I O A O P A
D A L N E T E U Q R S T N R A E
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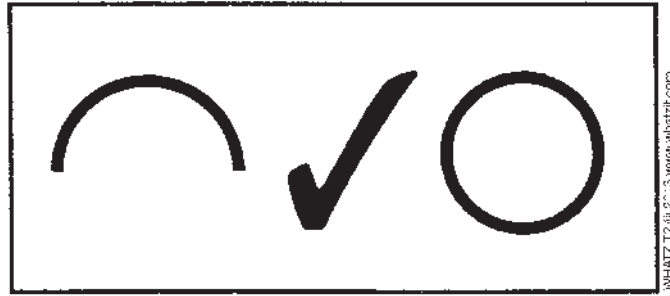
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Heat top Pacers for East title and date with Spurs



MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James walked off the court, stopped on his way to the bench to shake David Beckham's hand, then exchanged a few high-fives and quick hugs with teammates.

No raucous celebration was necessary. Getting back to the NBA Finals isn't nearly enough to satisfy James or the Miami Heat.

For the third straight year, the Heat are headed to the title round.

James scored 32 points and grabbed eight rebounds, ailing Dwyane Wade matched his best effort of this postseason with 21 points, and the Heat ran away from the Indiana Pacers 99-76 in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference finals on Monday night.

Next up for Miami: Game 1 of the title round, at home against the San Antonio Spurs on Thursday.

"This is what it's all about," James said. "I dreamed about opportunities like this as a kid to have a Game 7, no matter at home or on the road. And that game allows you to advance to the finals. I have had multiple dreams about it. To see a dream become a reality, I'm just very blessed. Our team is blessed. And we're just happy that we are able to represent the Eastern Conference in the finals."

The first six games of the East finals went like this for the Heat: Win, loss, win, loss, win, loss.

Form held in Game 7, though there wasn't much doubt about this outcome.

A series that had an aggregate score of Heat 569, Pacers 564 through the first six games ended with a runaway, with the Heat leading by as many as 28 at one point. And many of the things that they were criticized for throughout the series—not being aggressive, not getting enough from Wade, not getting enough rebounds—were huge pluses on Monday night.

The aggression was spearheaded by James at both ends, starting with his lockdown defense on Paul George and outscoring the Pacers from the foul line himself, 15-14. Wade had the bounce-back night he and his painful right knee have needed for a while, not just with the 21 points but with a game-high six



Miami Heat shooting guard Dwyane Wade (3) reacts to play against the Indiana Pacers during the second half of Game 7 in their NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals playoff series, Monday, June 3, 2013 in Miami.

offensive rebounds. And the Heat controlled the backboards, winning the rebound matchup 43-36.

"Moments like this can define your career," Wade said. "Situations when you're looking like ... when everyone is counting you out, you're looking down, to see how you respond. And I feel like we as a team, we respond very well. I feel like we have individuals on our team that respond very well when adversity hits."

Roy Hibbert scored 18 points for the Pacers, who got 14 from David West, 13 from George Hill and 10 from Lance Stephenson. All-Star Paul George was held to seven points on 2-for-9 shooting and fouled out early in the fourth quarter.

George was the last Indiana player on the floor as Miami prepped for its

postgame celebration, shaking any hand he could find before being walked toward the visiting locker room by Pacers coach Frank Vogel, who slung an arm over his star's shoulder.

His time will likely come—someday. Not yet, though. Not with this Miami team built for titles. It's the fourth trip to the finals for the Heat, who won the title in 2006 and have now been there all three years of the "Big Three" era, falling to Dallas in 2011 and then topping Oklahoma City in five games last year.

"The great thing is we're a young team and we are past the building stage," George said. "This is really our first year tasting success. The rate we are going, we see championships soon."

They're getting closer. A second-round loss to Miami in six games last year was followed by a seven-game,

conference-finals exit this time around.

Still, they'll be watching the title round.

"Everybody in this country knows who the Indiana Pacers are now," Vogel said. "And we represent all the right things: class, character, hard work, old-school basketball, playing the game the right way. We represented our franchise, our city and our state extremely, extremely well, and we have a lot to be proud of."

James exited with 5:08 left, shaking the hand of the retired soccer star Beckham as he made his way to the Heat bench for a relatively subdued celebration. Not long afterward, security personnel started what's become a familiar task in Miami—surrounding the court and stretching out a yellow rope, preparing to hold people at bay for the

looming on-court trophy presentation.

More than a few people didn't stick around to see the East title formally presented. After all, it's an all-or-nothing season for the Heat—and this trophy isn't the one that will satisfy them.

Ray Allen added 10 points for Miami, which earned its 78th victory of the season, matching the 11th-best, single-season total in NBA history.

"They're just an amazing group of guys," Heat managing general partner Micky Arison said after handing the East trophy to Chris Andersen. "They've given us an incredible season so far, but it's a long way from over."

It could have ended on Monday, of course, with the Heat coming off their worst offensive outing of the year in Game 6. They responded with a rout, despite shooting just under 40 percent, well below their norm.

"By any means necessary ... we took care of business," James said.

After 5 minutes, it was 12-6 Indiana. After that, the rest of the half was pretty much all Miami. Over the final 19 minutes of the half, Miami's edge was 46-25. Over the final 11 minutes, it was 33-14, as James and Allen outscored the Pacers by themselves.

"We just focused on every possession, trying to get stops, play Miami Heat defense, create havoc," James said. "I thought we did that tonight."

Indiana was still within 13 with 3:37 left in the period when Hibbert picked up his fourth foul. Ordinarily, that would mean someone goes to the bench, though Game 7 on the road for a trip to the finals hardly could be classified as an ordinary occasion.

So Vogel—who was second-guessed for not having Hibbert on the floor for the final moments in overtime of Game 1, when James got to the rim easily for a game-winning layup—left his center out there with four fouls.

Barely a minute later, it backfired. Hibbert picked up his fifth late in the third, and George got to five fouls by getting whistled twice in the final 46.1 seconds of the quarter.

By then, the outcome was obvious. It was Miami's night.

"We'll enjoy this," Spoelstra said, "for a short period of time."

A homage, a birthday and 3 firsts at French Open



PARIS (AP)—Novak Djokovic battled his way through grief, Rafael Nadal celebrated a birthday with the center court crowd, and three newcomers reached the quarterfinals on a busy Monday at the French Open.

Playing two days after his childhood coach had died, the top-ranked Djokovic's emotions were clear to see when he beat Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 to reach the last eight.

The Serb clenched his fist once, twice, then swatted it toward the ground in a punching motion as he yelled, "Come on!" to himself. He then quickly turned to his team in the stands and clenched it one last time, his face gripped with determination and pride.

There was no doubt whatsoever that this win was for Jelena Gencic, who died Saturday in Belgrade at age 76. She started coaching him when he was six, and Djokovic referred to her as his "second mother."

Now, he pledges to win the French Open to honor her memory.

"I feel even more responsible now to go all the way in this tournament. I want to do it for her," Djokovic said. "I know that her spirit will be always with me and always on the tennis court."

He next plays 12th-seeded Tommy Haas of Germany on Wednesday.

Djokovic played through grief before at the Monte Carlo Masters in April 2012, when he won a third-round match just hours after learning his grandfather had died.

He reached the final—and that painful experience helped him this time.

"I'm handling it better," he said. "So now I feel in her honor that I need to go all the way."

The smile on seven-time French Open champion Nadal's face after his 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 win against Kei Nishikori turned into a beaming grin when a giant cake was dragged onto center court for the Spaniard's 27th birthday.

Nadal seeks to become first man to win eight titles at the same Grand Slam event. Even if he does try to eat the huge cake, he may struggle to finish it before his match Wednesday against No. 9 Stanislas Wawrinka.

The Swiss player was one of three who reached the French Open quarters for the first time Monday. The other two are

Haas and No. 12 Maria Kirilenko of Russia.

But before Nadal plays Wawrinka and Djokovic takes on Haas, four quarterfinals will be decided Tuesday.

Seventeen-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer takes on No. 6 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France and No. 32 Tommy Robredo plays No. 4 David Ferrer in an all-Spanish match.

Top-ranked Serena Williams seeks to extend her winning streak to 28 straight matches when she faces Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova, the 2009 champion who is unseeded this year. Last year's finalist Sara Errani, seeded fifth, takes on No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland.

Radwanska leads Errani 6-1 and Williams is 6-2 up against Kuznetsova, but one of the losses was at Roland Garros in the quarterfinals four years ago.

Also through to the last eight is defending champion Maria Sharapova. The Russian beat Sloane Stephens and next plays three-time French Open semifinalist Jelena Jankovic.

Kirilenko beat American Bethanie Mattek-Sands 7-5, 6-4 and next faces two-time major champion Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

Sharapova's win came in 62 minutes, while Haas took about 20 minutes longer to dispatch Mikhail Youzhny, conceding only five games to the inconsistent Russian.

The speed then slackened considerably, as Wawrinka labored for 4 hours, 16 minutes to get the better of 7th-seeded Richard Gasquet of France 6-7 (5), 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, 8-6.

"In the soul, for sure," Gasquet said when asked to describe where the pain of losing hurt the most.

Wawrinka may have to brace himself for another very long

match if he wants to get the better of Nadal, who is 56-1 at Roland Garros.

"I'm really happy with everything what's happened, and I want to enjoy (it)," Wawrinka said. "I don't want to think about my next one. Even if I know it's Rafa."

The 35-year-old Haas is the oldest player to reach the French Open quarters since 1971. Joining him in the band of 30-somethings still standing in western Paris are the second-seeded Federer, Ferrer, Robredo and the 15-time Grand Slam champion Williams—who are all 31.

"I think we all just are smarter. ... About how you train, about how you eat, about how you do your recovery," Haas said, explaining the secret to their longevity. "The physical and fitness areas have improved a lot in sports in general. I think that's why you see maybe more people also in the early, mid 30s doing well."

Teixeira's slam leads Yankees over Indians, 7-4



**N E W
Y O R K**
(AP)—Mark
Teixeira hit

a grand slam for his first homer of the season, Brett Gardner had a tiebreaking single in the sixth inning as the New York Yankees beat the Cleveland Indians 7-4 Monday night to spoil Nick Swisher's first game back in the Bronx.

Andy Pettitte lasted only 4 2-3 innings in a wild return from the disabled list—his 500th career start. Shawn Kelly (3-0) got the win and Mariano Rivera retired Swisher on a fly to left with a runner on second for his 20th save in 21 chances, securing New York's second win in nine games.

Yankees designated hitter Travis Hafner, wearing Swisher's old No. 33, homered against his former team in the seventh off Justin Masterson (8-4), who matched a season high by allowing seven runs.

Cleveland shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera had to be helped off the field after straining his right quadriceps running out a grounder in a three-run fifth.

Swisher was greeted warmly when he came to the plate for the first time in the first inning, and again when he took his position at first base in the bottom half. He played for New York for four years before signing with Cleveland in the offseason.

Astros 2, Angels 1

In Anaheim, California, Chris Carter homered, Erik Bedard pitched seven strong innings for his first victory of the season as the last-place Astros completed a four-game sweep of the Angels.

Brandon Barnes drove in the go-ahead run in the sixth inning as the Astros finished a perfect six-game road trip with their seventh win over the big-budget Angels in 10 meetings this season.

Joe Blanton (1-9) picked up his AL-worst ninth loss for the Angels despite matching his career high with 11 strikeouts and allowing just three hits in eight outstanding innings.

Jose Veras struck out Hank Conger with two runners on in the ninth for his 11th save.

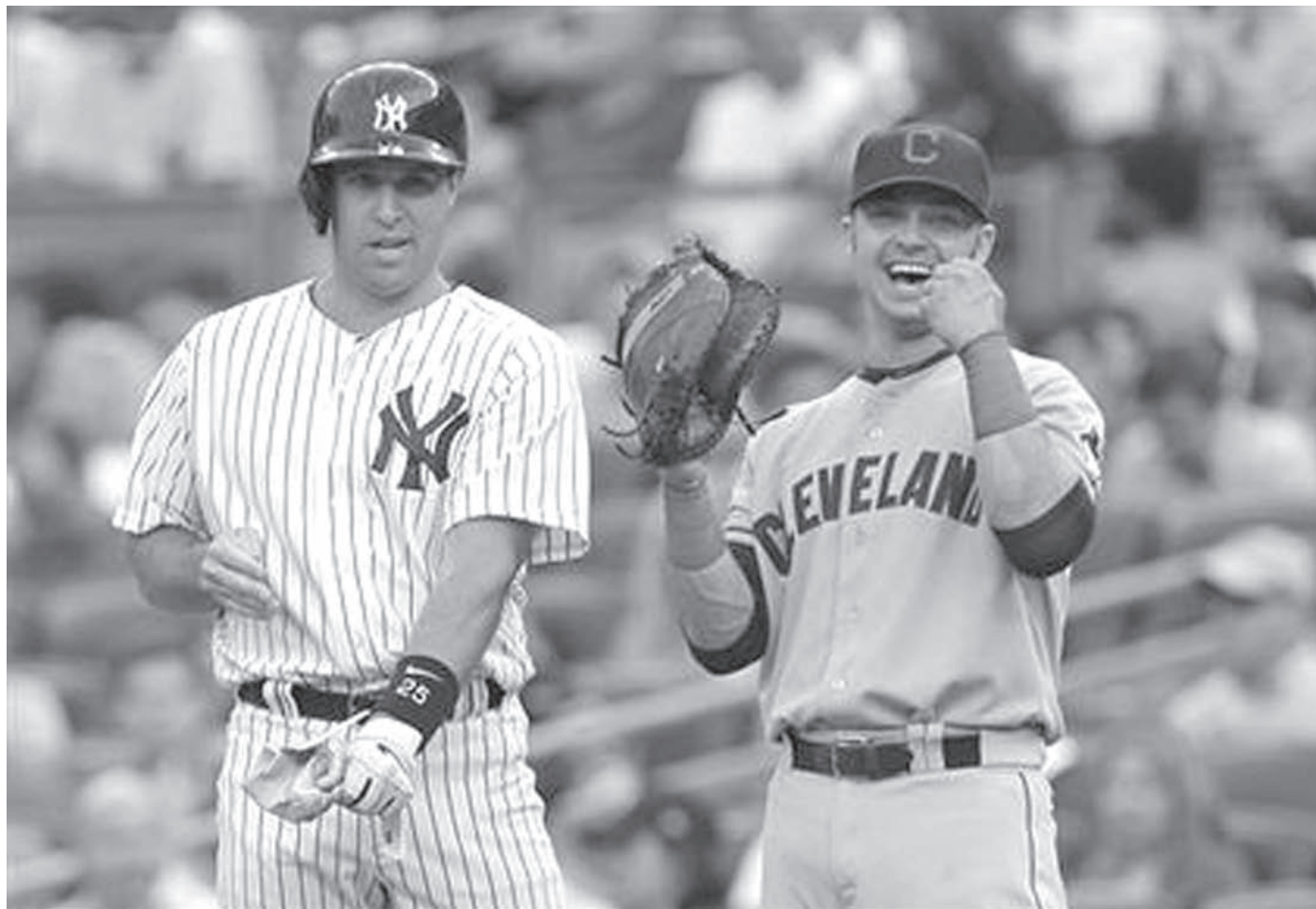
Bedard (1-2) hadn't won in his last 11 starts dating to last season, but the veteran lefty gave up just five hits and a run despite entering the night with a career 7.08 ERA at Angel Stadium.

Mariners 4, White Sox 2

In Seattle, Raul Ibanez hit a two-run homer and Joe Saunders pitched into the seventh inning to help the Mariners send the White Sox to their seventh consecutive loss.

It's the longest slide for Chicago since dropping seven in a row in September 2011.

Tom Wilhelmsen, who had blown three of his last four



New York Yankees' Mark Teixeira, left, chats with Cleveland Indians first baseman Nick Swisher during a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Monday, June 3, 2013.

save opportunities, gave up a two-out RBI single to Adam Dunn in the ninth but earned his 13th save.

Saunders (4-5) returned to his winning ways at Safeco Field, allowing one run and five hits in 6 1-3 innings. Saunders is 10-1 at the Mariners' ballpark. The lone loss came in his previous home start against Texas on May 24, when he gave up eight runs in five innings.

Chicago's John Danks (0-2) allowed four runs—three earned—and seven hits in six innings in his third start of the year. The loss snapped Danks' seven-game winning streak against the Mariners.

Diamondbacks 8, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Patrick Corbin became the major leagues' first nine-game winner, laboring through six inning in the Arizona Diamondbacks' win over the Chicago Cubs.

Corbin (9-0) allowed four runs and six hits, tying the team record for consecutive wins at the start of the season, set by Brandon Webb in 2008. The Diamondbacks are 11-0 in his starts.

He hit two batters and walked two in a 33-pitch first inning, when he walked Dioner Navarro with the bases loaded. Corbin minimized the damage by retiring Cody Ransom on an inning-ending flyout to the warning track in center.

Brad Ziegler, David Hernandez and Heath Bell combined for hitless relief.

Edwin Jackson (1-8) gave up seven runs—five earned—a season-high 12 hits, three walks and four wild pitches in 5 2-3 innings.

Wil Nieves had three hits and

two RBIs for Arizona.

Braves 6, Nationals 3

In Atlanta, B.J. Upton and Ramiro Pena hit home runs and Paul Maholm won his third straight decision.

The Braves won two of three from the Nationals and lead Washington by 6.5 games—the biggest advantage for any first-place team in the majors.

The Nationals (28-29) fell below .500 for the first time since they were 13-14 on April 30. The Braves are 7-3 against Washington this season.

Ian Desmond hit a homer for Washington in the sixth inning to cut Atlanta's lead to 4-3. Freddie Freeman answered with a bases-loaded, two-run double in the bottom of the inning.

Paul Maholm (7-4) allowed three runs, two earned, on five hits in six innings. Craig Kimbrel pitched a perfect ninth for his 17th save.

Washington rookie Nathan Karns (0-1) gave up four runs, three earned, on seven hits in 4 2-3 innings. Karns allowed two homers. He has given up four homers in his two starts.

Rockies 7, Dodgers 2

In Denver, Dexter Fowler hit two homers off fill-in starter Matt Magill and Jorge De La Rosa pitched seven effective innings.

It was the second multihomer game of the season for Fowler. Todd Helton and Michael Cud-dyer added solo homers as the Rockies took two of three from Los Angeles.

De La Rosa (7-3) struggled early, but settled down as he allowed six hits and struck out five for his first career win against Los Angeles. He was

0-8 entering the game.

Magill (0-1) was recalled from Triple-A Albuquerque to step in for lefty Hyun-Jin Ryu, who was a late scratch with a bruised left foot. Magill had a forgettable outing, giving up seven runs — six earned — in six innings. He also allowed four homers and walked nine, before being pulled for a pinch hitter after throwing 110 pitches.

Pirates 5, Reds 4, 11 innings

In Pittsburgh, Travis Snider hit an RBI single with two outs in the 11th inning.

Five Pittsburgh relievers combined for 10 scoreless innings. Starter Jeanmar Gomez was removed with tightness in his right forearm after giving up four runs in the first.

Reds shortstop Zack Cozart made a throwing error on Russell Martin's one-out grounder in the 11th. After Pedro Alvarez walked, Jordy Mercer flied out before Snider then dropped a single into right-center off Alfredo Simon (4-2).

Garrett Jones tied the game for Pittsburgh with a long two-run homer with two outs in the eighth. Jones' drive off Jonathan Broxton cleared the right-field stands, reached the Allegheny River on the fly and was estimated at 463 feet.

It was just the second homer to make it into the river without bouncing and the first by a Pirates' hitter. Daryle Ward hit the first on July 6, 2002, while playing for Houston.

Justin Wilson (5-0) pitched two innings for the win.

Giants 4, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Chad Gaudin

picked up a win in his first start in over three years and Brandon Belt broke a tie with a two-run pinch-hit double to help end San Francisco seven-game road losing streak.

Gaudin (1-1) went six innings in his first start since Sept. 28, 2009 as a member of the New York Yankees. He allowed four hits and two runs, both coming on a two-run homer by David Freese in the fourth. Gaudin is temporarily replacing Ryan Vogelsong in the rotation. Vogelsong broke several bones in his right hand May 20.

Pinch-hitter Belt slammed the first pitch from reliever Randy Choate into the gap in left-center to bring in Brandon Crawford and Gregor Blanco for a 4-2 lead in the seventh inning. Crawford began the rally with a single off St. Louis rookie Tyler Lyons (2-1).

Buster Posey, who entered the game in a 2 for 20 skid, had four hits for the Giants.

Phillies 7, Brewers 5

In Philadelphia, Domonic Brown homered, tripled and drove in four runs to back up the effective pitching of Cliff Lee.

Brown also singled and had a chance for the cycle when he came up in the seventh, but walked. He had three homers and eight RBIs against the Brewers in the weekend series.

Freddy Galvis went 2-for-4 with a triple and an RBI and Jimmy Rollins doubled and had two hits for the Phillies, who snapped a three-game losing streak and improved to 19-6 when scoring more than three runs.

Cliff Lee (7-2) was practically unhittable through seven innings, allowing three hits with

11 strikeouts and no walks before running into trouble in the eighth when the Brewers scored four runs. Lee got two outs in the eighth before he was pulled. He gave up three runs and seven hits total.

Jonathan Lucroy hit a three-run triple and Jeff Bianchi went 2-for-4 with an RBI for the Brewers.

Antonio Bastardo earned his first save in three chances with a shaky ninth. Bianchi's RBI single pulled Milwaukee with two runs, and the Brewers had the bases loaded with two outs. But Bastardo got pinch-hitter Martin Maldonado to fly out to center to end the game.

Marlins 11, Mets 6

In Miami, Marcell Ozuna drove in four runs and Greg Dobbs hit a three-run homer to help the Miami Marlins complete a three-game sweep over New York.

Ed Lucas and Chris Coghlan each had four hits and two RBIs for the Marlins, who tied a season-high with 16 hits and swept the Mets in Miami for the first time since May 28-30, 2004.

It was the first sweep for Miami since taking three from Philadelphia from June 29-July 1, 2012.

Ike Davis homered and drove in three runs, and Lucas Duda and Omar Quintanilla also hit homers for New York, which came to Miami on a five-game winning streak including a four-game sweep over the Yankees.

Mets starter Matt Harvey had a 1.85 ERA coming into the game, but battled through five innings allowing season-highs in hits (10) and runs (four) in his shortest start of the season. He walked five and struck out two.

Still, Harvey left the game with a 6-4 lead and was relieved by Scott Rice (3-4), who issued three consecutive walks with one out in the sixth.

Blue Jays 7, Padres 4, 11 innings

In San Diego, Mark DeRosa hit a go-ahead homer into the second deck in left field leading off the 11th inning and Toronto beat San Diego to avoid a three-game sweep.

It was the second extra-inning game of the series. The Padres won Friday night's game 4-3 in 17 innings.

Blue Jays starter Ramon Ortiz left in the third inning after appearing to hurt his right elbow.

DeRosa drove a 3-1 pitch from Brad Boxberger (0-1) an estimated 428 feet, his fourth.

It was the first of five straight hits opening the three-run inning. The Blue Jays' second run that inning came in on third baseman Chase Headley's throwing error and Jose Bautista hit an RBI double.

Casey Janssen (1-0) pitched the 10th for the win. Aaron Loup pitched the 11th for his second save.

More than 40 join Tri Saipan opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Over 40 participated in the first of a series of Tri Saipan races held last Sunday.

Leading the 45 finishers were individual division winners Ricky Melchor, Kimiko McKagan, and Butch Sublemente.

Melchor topped the men's short course with a time of 1:15:30. The sport course began with a swim to the first tank (in the waters off Susupe) and back, while the bike leg brought riders to PIC, COP, and Airport Road, Guandong Hardware (left turn) and left of the Tagaman course and back to the transition at the basketball court in Susupe. The run part was up to the World War II Japanese tank on Beach Road and back to Susupe.

Joining Melchor in the Top 3 in the men's division were Peter Prestley and Kennie Gaviola, who clocked in at 1:16:01 and 1:16:50, respectively.

The team of Ariel Lansangan and Gary Bandoja was the top overall finisher in the tri short course, submitting 1:14:40. Team Lemur settled for runner-up honors after recording 1:23:59, while the trio of John Dax, Laurina, and Christian finished third (1:26:16).

McKagan ruled the women's



Tri Saipan championship course top finisher Butch Sublemente is flanked by runner-up Tyce Mister, right, and third placer Charlie Sendin during the awards ceremony in Susupe last Sunday.

division after logging 1:17:30. Mamiko Oshima-Berger came in at second with her 1:23:00,

while Angel Marie Tan checked in at third with her 1:25:41.

In the championship course,

which had its swim leg at the first and second tanks and back to transition and had riders cruising PIC, COP, Airport Road before turning left to Dandan Shell, the As Lito Road past Guandong Hardware along Tagaman course and back to transition, Sublemente emerged as the top finisher. Sublemente completed the race that brought participants to as far as the Fishing Base in Garapan for the run leg in 1:46:28 to beat Tyce Mister (1:48:21) and Charlie Sendin

(1:50:55).

Swimmer Suzy Kindel and biker and runner Erico Castro joined the team event and timed in at 2:06:58.

Meanwhile, participants in the Tri Saipan were also allowed to do only the bike portion of the two courses. In the short course, Edwin Morales won in the men's division with

a time of 1:24:14, while Nap Dizon prevailed in the championship course after tallying 1:31:44.

Meanwhile, race organizer Brad Ruszala would like to thank the following for supporting last weekend's race: Pacific Islands Club, IT&E, Taga Inc, Brabu Pharmacy, Top Notch, Powerade, and MARPAC.

PABA hosts 3-on-3 on June 16



The revived Philippine Amateur Basketball Association will hold a 3-on-3 tournament in celebration of the Philippine Independence Day. The competition is set for

June 16 at the Civic Center Basketball Court and is open for U15 players (must not turn 16 on game day). Each team is allowed to have a maximum of five players. Entrance fee is only \$50 per squad.

Format and game schedule

will depend on the number of entries, but PABA official said they will work on giving participating teams at least three matches each.

For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525. (PR)

RACE

From Page 28

"Although Gabrielle is a newcomer in the 2013 Oceania Area Championships, she has the best chance of giving the CNMI medals, as she has been a household name in athletics for the past several years. Gabrielle is the daughter of CNMI tennis great Jeff Race and former CNMI national team sprinter Heidi Yelin," NMA official and coach Elias Rangamar said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Meanwhile, Abrams also raced in Day 1 of the three-day tournament. She was on

Heat 3 of the women's open 200m sprint and finished third with a time of 26.89 seconds, failing to surpass her PBT of 26.61 seconds. Abrams has two more races left—the 100m and the 800m mix medley relay. She will team up with Ngirchongor, Iguel, and Race in the 800m mixed medley relay, which kicked off last night with its qualifying heats.

In other results in Day 1, Iguel, Ngirchongor, and Pharmin all competed in the 200m run with the former recording the fastest time and placing fifth on Heat 4 with his 23.96 seconds. Ngirchongor was next and placed fourth on Heat 2 after logging

24.57 seconds, while Pharmin was ranked fifth on Heat 3 and timed in at 25.45 seconds.

Despite missing the medal podium in the open sprint races, Rangamar said the CNMI athletes' stint in Tahiti is beneficial to the Commonwealth bets.

"Rachel and Beo are competing in the open division, which is loaded with top Olympic qualifiers, but the experience should be valuable as we head into the Micronesian Games next summer. Our athletes will be using this to gauge our competition for next year's Micro Games as FSM, Marshalls, Palau, and Guam are also participating in Tahiti. Team CNMI was the top

medal winner in the last Micronesian Games in Palau (2010)," Rangamar said.

The NMA coach added they are looking for other off-island tournaments to give more CNMI athletes opportunity to compete.

"Just the lack of consistent competition in our region is really hurting our athletes. Our board needs to maybe look at our Asian neighbors, like Japan and Korea, to develop some competition structure on an annual and consistent basis. Our athletes can't train year round for just one meet and only three to four athletes get to go," he said.

19, 17-21, 21-17, while Almond Edralin won via default against Mark Apolarin in another C division duel.

Meanwhile, Saturday and Sunday results in Week 2 of the annual event will be reported in the Thursday and Friday editions of *Saipan Tribune*.

Havika Farro edged Malasarte, 21-7, 20-21, 21-17; Malasarte bounced back against Santos, 21-18, 18-21, 21-18; and Diane Francisco thwarted Farro, 21-15, 21-15.

In the men's A singles, Jexler Caranto outclassed Ferdie Arago 21-14, 21-16, while Macoi

Aguda defeated Jeff Riman, 21-20, 21-19.

The two other singles matches last Friday ended after three games with Kevin Park outlasting Jeremi Montenejo in the C division, 21-14, 20-21, 21-13, and Loida Ito surviving Janelle Pangilinan in the B category, 21-

TYPHOON

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6 points in that canto to keep the driver's seat with only one quarter left.

Typhoon/Triple J Motors 105



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	35	23	.603	—
Baltimore	32	25	.561	2 1/2
New York	32	25	.561	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	31	25	.554	3
Toronto	24	33	.421	10 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	30	25	.545	—
Cleveland	30	27	.526	1
Minnesota	25	29	.463	4 1/2
Chicago	24	31	.436	6
Kansas City	23	31	.426	6 1/2

West Division

Texas	35	21	.625	—
Oakland	35	24	.593	1 1/2
Los Angeles	25	33	.431	11
Seattle	25	33	.431	11
Houston	21	37	.362	15

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

Atlanta	35	22	.614	—
Washington	28	29	.491	7
Philadelphia	28	30	.483	7 1/2
New York	22	32	.407	11
Miami	16	42	.276	19 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	38	19	.661	—
Cincinnati	36	22	.621	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	35	23	.603	3 1/2
Chicago	23	32	.418	14
Milwaukee	21	35	.375	16 1/2

West Division

Arizona	32	25	.561	—
Colorado	30	27	.526	2
San Francisco	30	28	.517	2 1/2
San Diego	26	31	.456	6
Los Angeles	24	32	.429	7 1/2

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TWO

From Page 28

Santos in their C division duel, 21-12, 12-21, 21-14.

Meanwhile, 10 singles matches were played last Friday.

In the women's singles C,

Major Division Finals of SLLB



The Talaabwogh Falcons pose with their coaches and supporters after beating McDonald's, 5-1, in the Major division finals of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



McDonald's pitcher Spencer Dickinson talks to catcher A.J. Sanchez after an erratic defensive play.



A Falcons batter leans back to avoid a hit by pitch.



McDonald's Sho Taguchi waits for the pitch.



A Falcons batter has all eyes on the ball.



A Falcons runner waits for the next play at first base.



The Falcons huddle at the bottom of the third inning.



McDonald's Jaydan Tenorio makes eye contact with their catcher before throwing a pitch.



Umpire Manny Tenorio calls Arby Iguel out for stealing third base.



Falcons pitcher Jester Kintaro throws to first base to beat a McDonald's runner.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Race gives CNMI first medal in Tahiti

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Gabrielle Race debuted in the 2013 Oceania Area Championships with a bronze medal finish in the girls U18 3,000m race in the opening day of the regional competition last Monday in Pepee, Tahiti.

Race is the youngest member of the five-man CNMI Team that is competing in running events against the 21 other member-nations of Oceania Athletics Association. Joining Race in Tahiti are returnees Rachel Abrams, Orrin Pharmin, and Beo Ngirchongor, and another first timer Jesus Iguel.

The 15-year-old Marianas High School student completed the 3,000m race in 12:33.12 to make it to the podium and eclipse her per-



sonal best time of 12:55.30. Tahiti's Chloe Andres and Tiphania Saint-Blancatt took the gold and silver after submitting 11:48.92 and 12:02.40, respectively.

Besides the 3,000m run, Race will also compete in the 1,500m run and the 800m mix medley relay and Northern Marianas Athletics is counting on her to win one more medal for the lean CNMI Team.

See RACE on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Gabrielle Race, seen here warming up for last month's All Schools qualifier at the Oleai Sports Complex, won a bronze medal in the 2013 Oceania Area Championships in Tahiti.

Typhoon/Triple J stays alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Typhoon/Triple J Motors lived for another day after routing C&J

Signs International, 105-80, in Game 2 of their championship series in the 40A division of the 2013 Masters Basketball League last Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

With the win, Typhoon/Triple J Motors forced a deciding Game 3, which will be played this Friday.

After losing Game 1 in overtime, 79-84, following a major defensive lapse in the closing seconds of regulation, Typhoon/Triple J Motors made sure there was no way C&J Signs could steal Game 2, as the Ray Lizama-led team went for the jugular in the fourth quarter.

Typhoon/Triple J Motors outgunned C&J Signs in the fourth canto, 35-18, turning a 70-62 lead to a big 25-point winning margin. Lizama and Bruce Berline anchored Typhoon/Triple J Motors' attack in the first half of the final period, scoring 8 points apiece, while Rio Alvarez put



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Typhoon/Triple J Motors' Ray Lizama goes for a layup against C&J Signs International's Ernie Moises during Game 2 of their title series in the 40A division of the Masters caging last Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

the finishing touches in the series-tying win, notching the team's last 10 points. Lizama had 21 points for Typhoon/

Triple J Motors, while Berline chipped in 18. Haejun Park top-scored for the team with his 22 markers, while Alvarez and Felix Palacios added 12 apiece for Typhoon/Triple J Motors' balanced offense.

While Typhoon/Triple J Motors' points were evenly distributed, C&J Signs leaned heavily on one player—Tony Diaz, who logged a game-high 33 points. Edsel Mendoza was the only other C&J Signs player to score in twin digits with his 12 markers, but he was held to one field goal in the crucial fourth canto.

Diaz canned three early triples to keep C&J Signs afloat in the opening canto, as Typhoon/Triple J Motors led by only 5, 24-19. The advantage went up to 7 at the break, 46-39, as Park muscled his way in for 10 points in the second canto. Park and the rest of the Typhoon/Triple J Motors big men dominated the paint, as C&J Signs played without Junar Guib.

Park continued to give problems to C&J Signs' inside defense, as he added 8 more points in the third, while Lizama nailed Typhoon/Triple J Motors' last
See TYPHOON on Page 26

Two in a row for Obata, Talaria

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The pair of Toshiko Obata and Brandon

Talaria has yet to drop a single game in the mixed doubles B division of the 2013 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament.

Obata and Talaria, who defeated Jerry Tan and Shirley Kim in Week 1 after only two games, 21-10, 21-13, notched their second consecutive win via sweep after downing Daniel Shen and Cheng Saturno, 21-19, 21-20, last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex. The undefeated duo now leads Pool B of the mixed doubles B division.

In other mixed doubles results last Friday, three other pairs also notched straight game victories.

In the tough mixed doubles A, Andreau Galvez and Jen Savellano prevailed over Windy Fernandez and Talaria, 21-10, 21-11, while Malou Malasarte and Glenn Blautjens topped Obata and Chris Hilario, 21-19, 21-8. The other mixed doubles sweep came from the pair of Alma Ortega and Oh Im Bog, who crushed Cristy Villafior and Mr. Che in their B division match, 21-9, 21-9.

Fernandez and Hilario are also entered in the mixed doubles B and slipped past siblings Jordan and Janelle Pangilinan in three games, 21-20, 15-21, 21-14. Mer-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Toshiko Obata rushes in for a return during her and Chris Hilario's mixed doubles A match against Janelle Pangilinan and Jexler Caranto in the 2013 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

lie Tolentino and Mr. Park needed three games, too, to thwart Jen Cardinio and Ezekiel Macario, 21-15, 9-21, 21-17, while the brother and sister tandem of Jerome and Nicole Malasarte also went the distance against Panapa Peteru and Lani

See TWO on Page 26